

The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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CONTENTS.

SUMMARY OF NEWS	159
NOTES	170
LEADING ARTICLES:—	
Commercial Depression and Currency Appreciation	176
The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Treaty Revision	178
Municipal Matters	179
MARRIAGE IN THE UNITED STATES	180
THE CHINESE EVASIONISTS IN SAN FRANCISCO	180
CORRESPONDENCE:—	
A Friend in Need	181
Short Weight Coals	183
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE YOKOHAMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	183
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE	185
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN	186
MUNICIPAL REFORM	186
TRANSLATIONS FROM NATIVE JOURNALS:—	
The New Conscription Regulations	188
The Banks of Japan	188
CHINA	189
METEOROLOGICAL REPORT	189
LATEST TELEGRAMS	189
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE	190
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE	191

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 1884.

DEATH.

At Philadelphia, U.S. of America, on January 13th, 1884, suddenly, LYDIA E., wife of Jno. C. Ballagh Esq., recently of Tokio.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

An attempt to break Jail was made by the prisoners at Okayama on the 8th instant. The plot was discovered and frustrated.

It is stated that additional purchases of railway bonds have been effected by the National Banks, and this highly improper use of bank funds is ascribed to a circular addressed to the Banks by the merchants of Tokiyo.

THE *Hochi Shimbun* publishes a curious story to the effect that a continuous system of theft was carried on in the International Exhibition at Amsterdam by the Inspector General of Police. The goods stolen amounted in value to \$140,000.

A GENTLEMAN has written to the local press warning foreign residents in Tokiyo against fraudulent attempts on the part of Japanese coal merchants to deliver short weights.

A PROCLAMATION has been issued by the Council of State fixing the tax to be levied hereafter on the sea-weed obtained in the prefectures of Nemuro and Hakodate. In the former the tax is to be 10 per cent., in the latter 20 per cent., of the amount fished.

A REPORT is circulating that apprehensions are entertained of an unsatisfactory yield of silk in Japan this year. Similar rumours are set afloat

every spring, and the causes to which the probable deficiency is attributed in the present case are not of a nature to inspire much confidence in the truth of the rumour.

His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs returned to Tokiyo on the 21st instant, accompanied by Madame Inouye and Madame Katsu Inouye. The latter lady, we are happy to state, is quite restored to health.

On the morning of the 19th instant, a godown belonging to Messrs. J. D. Carroll & Co., and containing rope, paint, oil, cotton yarn, etc., was destroyed by fire. The goods were insured for \$60,000, it is said.

SYMPTOMS of a revival of business begin to be discernible, the railway receipts, among other things, showing totals in excess of those for the corresponding periods of last year, a result which has not been witnessed for some time.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Tokiyo Traders' and Manufacturers' Association was held at the Meiji Kwaido on the 18th instant. The subjects discussed were the banking system of Japan, and a scheme submitted by the Minister of Finance for extending the use of bank bills.

It is said that the authorities contemplate the issue of return postal cards. The idea of these cards in that, when desirable, an answer may be written on the same card by the recipient and forwarded to the original sender free of expense. The vernacular press anticipates a great increase to public convenience from this facility.

THE experience of the past two years having shown that an inconvenient accumulation of cases, both civil and criminal, can scarcely be avoided with the system of law courts at present existing, reforms, intended to facilitate the transaction of judicial business, are said to be in contemplation.

THE total number of conflagrations which occurred in Tokiyo during the past week was ten, of which six were incendiarisms. In only one case did the fire attain dimensions sufficient to destroy a house. One of the incendiarisms took place within the compound of General Kuroda's residence.

AN exhibition of pictures by Japanese artists was held at the Koyokwan, Shiba, Tokiyo, on the 17th instant. About 150 artists were represented. The exhibition was under the auspices of the Riuchikwai, a society formed two years ago with the object of promoting Japanese art industries. The pictures are to be sent to Paris for exhibition in the Museum of Japanese Arts recently opened there.

REPORTS from the Riukiu Islands indicate a renewal of pro-Chinese agitation on the part of the descendants of the Fuhkien immigrants. The present inclination of these men seems to be confined to leaving the country, and, as their departure would remove the source of agitation, surprise is expressed that the Japanese authorities take measures to detain them.

THE return of His Excellency Yenomoto to Peking, at an early date, is announced. This Minister's visit to Japan was made the basis of many sensational rumours, pointing, for the most part, to complications between the Chinese and Japanese Governments. The public was also informed, now that he would replace the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, and again that he would relieve Mr. Mori, in London, the simple truth being, as we explained at the time of his arrival, that he had come home on leave of absence.

THE Annual Meeting of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce was held on the 18th instant. The statistics of the Chamber showed that the value of the import trade was 2½ millions of dollars less, and that of the export trade about 1½ millions less, in 1883 than in 1882. A comparison of the estimated totals of the import and export trades for 1883, showed that the former exceeded the latter by nearly 9 millions of dollars. Some discussion took place with regard to Bonded Warehouses, in view of the pending changes in the tariff. Mr. A. J. Wilkin spoke at some length on the subject of treaty revision in relation to the abolition or modification of the extraterritorial clauses.

THE first lecture of the free series announced by the Evangelical Alliance was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Knox in the Meiji Kwaido on the 16th instant. About 1,200 persons, including many ladies, were present, and though occasional interruptions were caused by a few boisterous students, the proceedings were eminently successful. The next day an attempt was made by a Japanese gentleman to lecture in the same place on Buddhism, but a crowd of students took possession of the hall and effectually interrupted the affair. It is significant of the spirit of enquiry now prevailing in Japan that, in the former case, eleven or twelve hundred persons assembled and listened attentively, many of them standing all the while, to a lecture lasting more than two hours, unrelieved by any passages of anecdote or humour, and treating of a subject so severe as the "Basis of Morality."

THE Annual Meeting of the Yokohama Fire Brigade was held on the 19th instant. The accounts showed a balance of \$2,665 still due to the Hon. Treasurer, but it was explained that if there was no falling off in the receipts during the current year, this debt would be reduced by about one-third. A separate account was exhibited from which it appeared that the total losses by fire in the foreign settlement during 1883 only amounted to eighty thousand dollars. Of the origin of the seven conflagrations figuring in these statistics, the Committee of the Brigade had no satisfactory explanation to offer in any case. Some discussion took place with regard to the comparative contributions of the community and the Insurance Companies, and a proposition, made by Mr. A. J. Wilkin, to employ Mr. Hegt's corps as a flying brigade, elicited an explanation that Mr. Hegt had declined to be incorporated.

NOTES.

It is somewhat unusual just at present for the Conscription Regulations to be celebrated with any outward and visible signs of joy, but the *Fiji Shimpō* gives a striking instance of that sort. "On the 11th inst.," says this journal, "a celebration of the Conscription Regulations took place at Okayama, the promoters of the festival being Messrs. Mineya and Ishihara. A platform was erected under a canopy of national flags, and a display of fireworks took place. Mr. Mineya, in addressing his audience, pointed out the necessity of the enlargement of military organization, and warmly congratulated the authorities on the revision of the Conscription Regulations. Speeches were made by several persons, and, at the conclusion of the addresses, a straw effigy was brought forward, intended to represent those averse to military service. The effigy was considerably battered with wooden swords, and finally decapitated with due ceremony. The head of the obnoxious effigy was then hoisted on top of a bamboo pole and exposed to the derisive jeers of the populace."

Two years ago, there was organized in Tokiyo a society called the *Riuchikwai*. It consisted, in its early days, of about a hundred noblemen, gentlemen, and traders, all of whom were concerned, as a matter of profit or sentiment, in the revival of Japanese art and its popularization abroad. The society was under the presidency of H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa, patron and supporter of whatever is liberal, useful, or benevolent. In a few months its numbers were doubled, and its list of membership now comprises fully a thousand names, while it disposes annually of a fund amounting to ten thousand *yen*. The Committee of management, justly deeming that any efforts made in Japan ought to be supplemented by an appeal to the European public, have concluded arrangements to open in Paris a museum of modern Japanese art productions, and a collection of pictures destined for exhibition there was shown at the Kōyōkwan, Shiba, on the 18th instant. Japanese pictorial art undoubtedly suffered much after the Restoration, from the general disposition to discard everything of native origin. Until five or six years ago, oil paintings and water-colours *à la Européenne* were all the vogue, and the few artists who remained true to the old styles, found little employment and less patronage. But the temper of the times has changed considerably. The exhibition at the Kōyōkwan did not contain much that would satisfy the severest standards of Japanese art, but it showed a marked improvement as compared with its predecessor at Ueyeno in 1882. About 150 artists were represented, and their works ranged from the most elaborate specimens of decorative painting to the severest style of Indian ink sketches. That essentially Chinese and most unnatural variety of picture known as the *Bunjin-gwa* had evidently occupied the attention of a great many artists, but we frankly confess that our education does not yet extend to an appreciation of the grotesque rocks and impossible hills which always occupy the background of these efforts. The masterpieces of the exhibition were two pictures by Kiyosai. One, in Indian ink, represented an eagle in the act of striking a young boar; the other, in colours, depicted the well known episode in Chinese mythology where the afterwards-renowned warrior Choriyo picks up the sandal of

the Genius Koseki. Nothing could exceed the boldness and vigour of these drawings. Kiyosai's works will certainly take rank hereafter among the highest achievements of his country's artists. Unfortunately like many another man of note, his respect for the conventionalities of everyday life is said to be slight, so that he fails to secure the patronage without which the execution of important pieces is difficult to a painter of slender resources in Japan. An artist, Hōgai, whose name will doubtless be better known one of these days, exhibited a remarkably composed picture of the goddess Kwannon in the act of pouring from a phial a slender stream of water, in the spray of which floated a baby drawn with great skill. Another piece from the same brush, a winter scene, attracted much attention. A very beautiful specimen of that graceful and delicate fashion of figure painting inaugurated in Japan by Matahei and copied so admirably by Okiyo, was shown by an artist called Sensai. Other pictures worthy of special note were a snow scene by Bunkiyo; a group of flowers by Kwansen; figures of fishermen by Beisen; a flock of wild geese and a hawk by Ansen, and a landscape, with a junk in the foreground, by Kason.

UNDER the heading "The French in possession of Colombo," the *Ceylon Observer* of the 23rd ult. has the following:—"So one might judge from the appearance of the harbour and streets of our city to-day. Last evening the French transport *Europten* with 600 troops on board; arrived; and this morning the *Vinhlong* with the General Commanding-in-Chief, Millot, two Brigadiers-General, Brière de l'Isle and de Négrier, with staff and about 900 troops for Tonquin. The steamer *Comorin* also came in this morning with further troops. From an exchange we quote the following details:—The reinforcements for Tonquin, numbering 6,300, were to leave France in two detachments. The first, which was to have started on the 25th Dec., consisted:—1st, of transport *Vinhlong* with Generals Millot, Brière de l'Isle, and de Négrier, 1,050 Algerian troops and three horses; 2nd, the transport *Europten*, with 602 men and two horses; 3rd, the steamer *Scolong*, with 615 men and six horses; 4th, the steamer *Comorin*, with 817 men and eight horses. The *Annamite* was to start on Jan. 10th with the troops from France, consisting of infantry, artillery, engineers, and the ambulance train, numbering altogether 3,219 men, with fifty-two horses. Finally the steamer *Ville de Metz* will be dispatched at the end of the present month with 3,000 tons of provisions. It will thus be seen that there are over 2,000 French troops now in our harbour. A number of these have been wandering about our streets, wondering no doubt at the novelties of a tropical island and themselves objects of wonder to the natives. The Algerian troops are, we suppose, the first who ever landed here. An officer who died on board was buried this evening."

On Sunday afternoon, the 17th instant, the Meiji Kwaïdo was witness of a somewhat remarkable scene. Mr. Kitabatake Dōrin, Chief Priest of the Higashi Honganji, had announced a lecture on his recent tour through India, together with observations on Indian Buddhism. As the subject was a novel one, a very large audience collected some time before the appointed hour. The hall was soon over-full, while quite a crowd forced their way through the windows,

despite every effort of the watchmen to prevent them from breaking in. As soon as the lecturer commenced speaking, cries of disapprobation and rude clamor rose from many parts of the hall, completely drowning the speaker's voice. The student element was largely represented, and was conspicuously noticeable for rowdy behaviour. The noise and disturbance finally reached such a pitch that the speaker announced that the lecture could no longer be continued, pleading sudden indisposition as the reason of his abrupt close. The excuse gave occasion for renewed hisses and derisive cries, many calling out "Priests shouldn't lie; why don't you go on with the lecture?" Unfortunately there were no police present to put an end to the riotous proceedings. The cause of the disturbance is said to be due to the fact that no admission fees were charged, access thereby being given to the mob. Several thousand persons were present.

IN days gone by, fire was known as the "flower of Yedo," because, though destructive, it was regarded as an evidence of prosperity. This sounds rather like a mysterious *non sequitur*. Since the establishment of the Imperial residence in Tokiyo, the authorities have done everything in their power to prevent the occurrence of disastrous conflagrations. Statistics show that the entire city is burnt in every seven years. From 1874 to 1883 the area covered by houses destroyed by fire amounts to 67,467 *tsubo* for each year, and, estimating the average cost of real estate at 28.91.3 *yen* per *tsubo*, this gives a total loss by fire of 1,950,715 *yen*. Dividing this sum by the total number of houses in the fifteen wards—287,930—gives an annual average of loss by fire of 6.77.4 *yen* per house.—*T. Y. Mainichi Shimbun*.

WE (*Hongkong Daily Press*) learn on reliable authority that all operations are suspended for the present throughout Tonquin, pending the arrival of General Millot with the reinforcements. As the moon will be full shortly after his arrival, the attack on Bac-ninh will be pushed forward immediately. We understand that the French authorities have taken steps by which dispatches will be sent from the field of battle direct to Hongkong, for telegraphing to France, without touching anywhere. Meanwhile correspondents are encouraged as little as ever.

THE reconnaissance made from Hanoi in the direction of Bac-ninh, on January 11th, appears to have established the fact that every preparation for a vigorous defence has been made by the Chinese. The troops engaged in the reconnaissance were four companies of Turcos, one of Annamite riflemen, and three pieces of artillery. They found that the only practicable route to the place was fortified at every point, and the same report was made as to the condition of the canal by the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief. The reconnoitring force was under Chinese fire for about three hours. It is to be feared, from all this, that the French will find the assault of Bac-ninh a task of some difficulty. As we predicted in November, they have wisely waited for reinforcements before attempting to advance, and they will thus be able to deliver the assault with a force of eight or nine thousand men. The Chinese, on the other hand, will have three times that number, at least, and if they stand to their guns with

ordinary steadiness the losses of the attacking force must necessarily be severe. As to the result, there can be little doubt, but it is not pleasant to think of the sacrifices that may have to be made. The best thing that can happen in the interests of peace is that the French should succeed easily and swiftly. They must win in the end, and every difficulty or repulse they encounter will only furnish a fresh incentive to Chinese stubbornness. Our conviction that there will not be any open war between France and the Middle Kingdom remains unchanged. Bac-ninh will fall, and France will then find that she can afford to be magnanimous, while China, on her side, is not sufficiently sensitive to be stirred to earnest action by a trouble so remote as the loss of a nominal suzerainty, or even of an outlying dependency. When France sees herself mistress of the delta of the Red River she will listen to mediation, and America will be the mediator. Any friendly offices of that nature once contemplated by England, have probably been finally abandoned in view of Egyptian complications.

A FIRE broke out on the morning of the 19th instant in a godown belonging to Messrs. J. D. Carroll & Co., next to their offices in Main-street. The fire was discovered at twenty minutes to five o'clock, and is supposed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion, the building containing rope, paint, oil, cotton yarn, waste, blankets, &c. The engines were very quickly on the spot and were soon got to work, but unfortunately the "Relief" burst a boiler tube, and had to be withdrawn. Quantities of water were poured into the burning building by the "Victoria" and manuals, but owing to the nature of the contents of the godown, the firemen were only able to confine the conflagration to the building in which it originated, which was entirely destroyed with all it contained. We understand that the property is insured in the China Fire for \$40,000, and in the Hongkong Fire for \$20,000, but whether Messrs. Carroll are covered or not has not transpired. Great credit is due to Mr. Morgan, of the Fire Brigade, for his exertions.

THE *Yomi-uri Shimbun* says that the people of Kagawa, in Sanshiu, had a surprise the other day. Some farmers were digging in the neighbourhood of a little temple when they came on a number of massive timbers buried in the ground. Pursuing their researches, they found ultimately that a hole, thirty-six yards square, was filled with similar logs. When and why these timbers were thus disposed of no one has yet been able to conjecture. Kagawa is a little village of hard-working rustics, and tradition does not tell of any time when a use could have existed there for the buried logs.

THE *North German Gazette* states that the reception of the Imperial Prince by the Pope was ceremonious yet cordial, and declares that the report published by the *Osservatore Romano* with regard to the interview was the only correct and complete one. From this it results, adds the semi-official journal, that the private conversation between the Prince and his Holiness lasted about an hour.

The *Osservatore Romano* is officially authorised to contradict, both as regards the substance and the words, the report published by some of

the Liberal newspapers of a portion of what passed in private between the Pope and the Crown Prince. That report was to the effect that at the end of the interview the Pope asked the Prince if he had no mission or anything to propose, to which the Prince replied, "My only mission is to express the lively desire of the Emperor and Prince Bismarck that peace may be re-established between Church and State in Germany compatibly with our laws and our institutions." The Pope, it was added in this report, made no answer, and was but little satisfied with what the Prince had said.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Tokiyo:—The lecture delivered at the Meiji Kwaido on Saturday last was a thorough success, 1,150 persons were present, and at least eleven hundred of these were as quiet as could be. At first there was some slight disturbance, but after a kindly appeal of the Chairman (Rev. Mr. Eby) to the politeness of the audience, the unruly section dwindled down to half a dozen, and even these were far from being boisterous, so that the vast bulk of the listeners had the opportunity of enjoying, to its very close, a lecture which lasted over two hours. When the Chairman and the Rev. Mr. Knox ascended the platform they were received with a perfect ovation, and the applause at the points in favor of Christianity was far in excess of the few cries of disapprobation. The impressions conveyed by the paragraph in the *Japan Mail* of the 19th inst. might have been those of one who stood on the outskirts of the audience, but not of one near the front.

A RECENT issue of *Iron* has a strong argument in favour of cremation. It says:—Some people—very worthy people, no doubt—have been shocked by the recent accounts of the cremation of the body of the late Captain Hanham. For charity's sake, we will respect their feelings, but we are utterly unable to understand their arguments against such a method of disposing of our dead. From a sanitary point of view their objections are absurd, and must be relegated to an age of darkness which we have happily passed. We will do our best to direct their attention to an important extract, which bears directly upon the question, and which is taken from the reports from Her Majesty's diplomatic and consular officers abroad on subjects of general interest, presented to both Houses of Parliament this year. The report is by Mr. Corbett, of Rio de Janeiro, and embodies the investigations of Dr. Freire on the subject of yellow fever. Dr. Freire states:—"I think it a duty to divulge as soon as possible a circumstance of much importance to the public health. Having gone to visit the Turnjuba cemetery, where those dying in the maritime hospital of Santa Isabel are interred, I gathered from a foot below the surface some of the earth gathered from the grave of a person who died about a year ago of yellow fever. On examining a small quantity with the microscope, I found myriads of microbii exactly identical with those found in the excreta of persons sick with yellow fever. These observations, which were verified in all their details by my auxiliaries, show that the germs of yellow fever perpetuate themselves in the cemeteries, which are like so many nurseries for the propagation of new generations destined to devastate our city. A guinea pig, whose blood examination showed that it was in a pure state, was shut up in a confined space in which was placed the

earth taken from that grave. In five days the animal was dead, and its blood proved to be literally crammed with cryprococcus in various stages of evolution." Could science speak more plainly, and is sentiment to get the better of its teachings? We have too great a faith in healthy public opinion ever to doubt its verdict in this matter.

THE *Yomi-uri Shimbun* says that the first ice of the season came to Yokohama three days ago in the *Owari Maru*. The ship carried a cargo of 500 tons from Hakodate, and it was transferred, immediately on arrival to the ice-house of Mr. M. Asada, who expects to be as fortunate this year as he was last in the ice trade.

THE unrivalled tenor, who died at Rome on the 12th of December, though known to the world as Mario, was in reality the Marquis Giovanni di Candia. He was seventy-three years old when he died, and like many another great artist, his last days were passed in obscurity, if not in embarrassment. Among his best friends and most munificent patrons was the Queen of England. She, too, was one of the first to receive the news of the great tenor's death. A few moments before Mario expired he was waited on by Mr. Cusin, one of the Royal Chaplains, who had just arrived from London, knowing nothing of his friend's illness. Mario had scarcely strength to bid his visitor farewell, and to entrust to him respectful remembrances for Her Majesty, which were immediately telegraphed to Windsor. The Queen replied, also by telegram:—"Her Majesty has learned of M. Mario's death with sincere regret. She begs that you will represent her at his funeral, and place a chaplet of flowers, in her name, on his bier." After he retired from the stage Mario seems to have busied himself writing his memoirs, but unfortunately he left them incomplete. It is said, too, that towards the end he had become subject to curious hallucinations. Thus, on the last page of his diary, he wrote:—"At about 3 o'clock this morning, I distinctly heard three knocks at my window. Evidently this has some relation with the news which I sought of my daughters in London." Mario was originally destined for the career of arms. He was for seven years an officer in the Italian army, during five of which he served as aide-de-camp to General de Maistre. One day, however, as he himself relates, he was ordered to carry some despatches to the Viceroy of Sardinia, at Cagliari. He had special reasons for not desiring to make the journey, and as there was no way of avoiding it if he remained in the service, he determined to resign. Soon he was singing in the salons at Paris, and hearing everybody praise his beautiful tenor, with its compass from *fa* to *si*. Among his admirers was the Baroness de Montmorency, an excellent musician and pianiste, who could not conceal her astonishment at hearing him sing tenor in Paris when he had been singing *basso profondo* at Nice a short time before. Mario told her gallantly that if he had formerly taken the part of *Marcel*, in "The Huguenots," he now took that of *Raoul*, because the lover's rôle always fell to the tenor. He appears to have felt many scruples about going on the stage, but the Prince of Belgiojoso finally convinced him by saying:—"If I had your voice, and your figure, I should not hesitate, prince as I am." While he was preparing for his new career he used often to go, he says, to hear Rubini sing, and that artist's beautiful voice pro-

duced such an effect on him that, on his way home, he could not help repeating what he had heard at the Salle Vendatour. The police did not appreciate this artistic enthusiasm, and more than once Mario was rebuked by them for disturbing the public tranquillity.

THE present Governor of Hongkong adopts a refined and scholarly method of letting the Colonial Office know that his ideas of the dependency he administers do not exactly correspond with those of his predecessor. Hongkong, he informs the Earl of Derby, is neither the *colonia* of the Romans, nor yet the *αποικία* of the Greeks, but is a mixture of *εμπειρία* and *εμπροσθ*, that is to say a cross between "a fort or stronghold placed so as to command an enemy's country" and a commercial mart. Lord Derby does not often enjoy an opportunity of deriving so much solid information as Sir G. F. Bowen's despatches place at his disposal, and it is to be hoped that he will have leisure to profit by the chance. Moreover, there will be much comfort for the opponents of Sir John Pope Hennesy's policy in the thought that his successor, so far from indulging in any humanitarian dreams of placing the Chinese residents on the same level as the foreign, regards Hongkong as "a fortified outpost like Gibraltar, a post of power," a place designed to "command an enemy's country." This is pretty much the conception a great many Englishmen entertain of their position, both in Japan and China, *vis-à-vis* the people of the country. Sir G. F. Bowen, having dispelled all doubts as to the proper status of the place he writes about, then proceeds to give some interesting statistics. He says that the tonnage of the shipping entered at Hongkong in 1882 was 4,976,233, a larger figure than the tonnage entered at London in the year of Her Majesty's accession: that the revenue of the colony (£220,000) is greater than was the entire public revenue of Scotland at the time of the Union; that so far from having a public debt, the place has a balance fund, invested at interest and amounting to £209,000; that its population is 160,402, of whom 7,990 are whites, 1,722 coloured, and the remainder Chinese, and that the city of Victoria extends for more than four miles along the shore and contains about 7,000 houses of stone and brick, "many of them spacious and handsome."

An eminent financialist of social proclivities lately wrote to Mr. Mitchell to request him to inform Miss Mary Anderson that her presence would be welcome either at a dinner party, or as a guest later in the evening after it, and to request to be informed what the charge would be. Upon submitting the proposal to Miss Anderson, this young lady very rightly replied that she was not on hire for dining or evening party purposes. *Truth* remarks:—"Never was a snub more deserved. What would the financialist have thought if Miss Anderson had asked him to come to her house to be stared at in consideration of food and a cheque? This sort of purse-proud, vulgar snobbishness must be put down."

THE New York correspondent of the *London and China Express* gives the following account of how a Chinaman, named Chew Fong Lee, slipped very cleverly into the country. He came over for the especial purpose of drying shrimps and crabs for food, a business which properly excludes him under the Chinese Anti-Immigra-

tion Act. He had the forethought, when challenged, to engage a lawyer, who overwhelmed the judge before whom the case was tried with a burst of scientific jargon. "He is, your honour," said the lawyer, "about to conduct a series of experiments and investigations in the arts of desiccating and freeing from moisture the long-tailed decapod crustaceans, which inhabit the waters of our beautiful bay; also in pulverising the palæmon vulgaris and utilising the carapax of macroural and the cephalothorax of the *stomatopoda* species as an article of food." "That sounds very good," said his Honour; "I wish Chinamen were all seized with the desire to benefit science." Chew Fong Lee is now drying shrimps and small crabs.

ONE of the Tokiyo society journals enters into some pleasing details about an unfortunate youth whose body is said to be the home of innumerable caterpillar-like animals. He is at present an inmate of a private hospital, and various microscopists are endeavouring to place the animalculæ in their proper classification. This is nothing to the case of Edward Longmore, a man of Sedalia, whose stomach has just ceased to be the home of a lizard which had lived there for more than two years and made the miserable citizen very uneasy by promenading in his intestines.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Pottery Gazette*, under the heading of "Bosh Tea Shops," calls attention to the fact that the "tea and glass combination" is taking a new departure in Birmingham. Enterprising tea-shops have extended their "gifts" giving a towel with every half-pound of tea. This is suggestive to the happy purchaser. A dustpan, a coal-shovel, a tin basin, a brush, indeed nearly every trifle used in a house is "given away" now-a-days with each pound or half pound of tea. The writer concludes that this new move is a direct attack at the drapers' trade, "but," he adds, "the draper can defend himself, and with great pertinacity, as we all know." We do not wish to appear too active in our own behalf, but—really could not some of our local tea-dealers do the same? Towels are very handy articles.

THE *Morning Advertiser* of December 26th thus delivers itself on the situation in Egypt:—Even "the uncrowned king," as Gordon came to be called, had to complain continually of the untrustworthiness in action of his best trained troops. But Valentine Baker has no trained troops at all. They are policemen at the best, and not good policemen. And if, as we insisted should be done at first, Indian troops are not to be used even for the protection of Egypt—and a diversion by Suakim is clearly the quickest way of securing such a protection—then there is nothing for it but to stand on the defensive where defence is possible, and to recruit men from the Levant, who, especially Turks from Smyrna and Constantinople, would be only too glad to volunteer under English officers. But the first thing, it appears to most people who have studied the subject, is that there shall be an end of divided counsels at Cairo. Mr. Hake shows how these hampered Gordon, even when the situation was much simpler than it is, and when there was a strong ruler in the Palace of Abdeen. The next step is some relaxation of the rule respecting the application of the revenue. It is absurd, when Egypt has hardly begun to recover from the

effects of Arabi's rebellion, and when the Treasury is empty, and when these troubles have come upon the Government, to insist on the strict letter of financial arrangements which were well enough when Mr. Goschen devised them, but were never meant to cover such contingencies as are now to be met. Sir Evelyn Baring has had a soldier's training, and we can hardly believe that he will refuse his sanction to an arrangement by which the surplus tribute—the prospective sinking fund—should be advanced to the Khedive for actual purposes of defence. The continuance of the present state of affairs must deprive the Government of Cairo of far more revenue than would be spent in a few resolute movements which would have the effect of restoring public confidence and reopening the now paralysed markets at Khartoum, Berber, and Dongola. No doubt we should in no way assist the Khedive in reconquering the Eastern Soudan. But there is no question of that now. And if we refuse to help him out of his hobble we shall have a much vaster responsibility cast upon us very soon. We are virtually his protectors; Sir Evelyn Baring is virtually a Resident and dictator of policy. It will be strange if our direction of policy leads to military paralysis, and if our protection means tying our puppet by hands and feet. Yet that is remarkably like what the immediate outcome is.

THE course of events in Europe seldom elicits any expression of journalistic opinion with regard to Consular jurisdiction. It happens, however, that the Continental newspapers comment very plainly on this subject, in connection with the Capitulations of Tunis, which, as our readers are doubtless aware, recently gave rise to long negotiations between France and Italy, with the result that the jurisdiction of the former has been finally accepted. The whole question to be discussed was one of jurisdiction. Neither the commercial nor the financial phases were taken into consideration. The Capitulations referring to jurisdiction had their origin in the existence of barbarian governments, more especially the Mussulman Government, which, having no law but the Koran, was obviously incompetent to administer justice to Christians. It had been necessary to establish Consular tribunals, and of these a leading Italian journal says that "they have always been considered very defective," and that "wherever regular tribunals exist, the interest of all is to suppress special and exceptional jurisdictions, which, by their very nature, are vicious." The same journal then continues thus:—"From a civil point of view, diverse tribunals, the competence of which depends on whether a man is defendant or plaintiff, are good only for persons of bad faith, who seek, in chicanery, the means to evade their engagements. With justice of this species, credit is impossible, and consequently respectable merchants of every nationality desired to put an end to a regimen injurious to all legitimate interests. There remained then, the question of criminal justice, which interests, it is true, in general, very uninteresting persons, respectable folks seldom having anything to do with criminal tribunals: yet as there might be exceptions to this rule, guarantees were necessary. The difficulty has been solved by giving to Italians, when accused, the guarantee of a number of Italian jurors sufficient to remove any suspicion of partiality. It is evident that

the new jurisdiction will be preferable to that of Consuls, which, we repeat, is most defective." One cannot but wonder how this journal, and others that write in the same strain, would express themselves about Japan, where not two, but seventeen, different jurisdictions exist, and where respectable foreign merchants, so far from thinking that these multitudinous administrations "are good only for persons of bad faith who seek to evade their engagements," regard them as a valuable privilege not to be given up until Japan can offer some material *quid pro quo* for their surrender.

For some time past a party of speculative auctioneers have been plying an interesting and exciting trade in the neighbourhood of Nihon-bashi. Their organization combines the elements of buying and selling, and appears to resemble the device said to be so successfully practiced in New York for disposing of cigars to unwary visitors. The American plan is to put up a number of boxes of cigars apparently in one lot, and to sell them to a bystander for some ridiculously small sum. Tempted by such easy terms, another bystander bids for the next lot, and finds that his bid is accepted, not as covering the whole parcel, but as referring only to one box. The result is that in a majority of cases he compromises by paying a fine and getting rid of his bargain. In Japan the plan is simpler. The party watch for the advent of a countrified looking person, and when his attention is attracted to the auction, the auctioneer sells a number of valuable articles for a mere song to confederates who drop in by accident. The happy purchasers betray so much satisfaction that the countryman is at last tempted, and the value he gets for his money can be easily surmised. The other day, however, the auctioneers were unfortunate enough to mistake a detective for a bumpkin. The next morning they were all deprived of their licenses.

At the closing of the Fisheries Exhibition in London, announcement was made that its immediate successor would be devoted to the subject of health. A Health Exhibition will be a very novel affair: the more so that its scope appears, at first sight, vague and almost limitless. If the only restriction placed upon exhibits were that they should bear some relation to health, it is plain that almost every useful object might find a place in the show. To obviate this uncertainty care has been taken to define the nature of the exhibits with tolerable accuracy. Those in the first main division are to be divided into five groups—Food, Dress, the Dwelling, the School, and the Workshop: the second main division is to be devoted to Education. Even this classification leaves an inconvenient degree of latitude, and it may be presumed that further steps will be taken to circumscribe the vagaries of exhibitors. But the programme, however it may be narrowed down hereafter, shows that the exhibition will be the most instructive, and not the least interesting, of those hitherto held. *The Times* thinks that Japanese and Chinese Courts may be looked for, and we trust that if Japan elects to send anything, she will take care to be better represented, than she was at the Fisheries Exhibition. Models of houses, gardens; specimens of clothing and foot-gear; food of all sorts; including some of her wonderful *daikon* and *kabu*; examples of cookery—from such a list as this a court might

be furnished so as to create quite a sensation among Western sight-seers. The whole process of cooking eels *à la Japonaise* would delight a London audience, and there is a fortune to be made by anyone who is sufficiently enterprising to exhibit a tea house, built after the most approved fashion of the *Cha no Yu* æsthetics, where visitors would have a chance of tasting the best *kwaitski ri-yori*, served by Japanese waitresses and washed down by mulled *saké*.

Le Saigonnais publishes a startling piece of news, to this effect:—The Viceroy of Yunnan, who considered Son-tay an impregnable fortress, learning that the French were marching upon it, went himself to the town in order to enjoy the sight of their defeat. Of the day of the assault, accompanied by the first lieutenant of Liu Vinh-phuoc, he passed along the Chinese ranks, exhorting them to resist to the utmost. While thus engaged he saw the French Admiral at a distance of not more than 150 mètres. Turning to the second chief of the Black Flags, he thus addressed him:—"Terrible soldier, you see before you the chief of these barbarians who have sworn our death; you are accounted our best shot, let us see you justify your reputation." The lieutenant raised his rifle to his shoulder, but before he had time to press the trigger, both he and the Viceroy fell, shot dead. The news of their death spread along the ramparts like a powder train. An hour afterwards the French entered the town victorious, the Chinese having retired into the citadel. The French were at a loss to account for the sudden cessation of the opposition, and this is put forth by our Saigon contemporary as the explanation.

According to the *Saigonnais* of the 7th inst., the French transport *Vinhlong*, whose machinery broke down off Colombo, had arrived at Singapore four or five days before the date of the paper. The troops and matériel for Tonquin were immediately transferred to the *Mytho*, but as this operation would occupy three or four days it will be towards the end of this week before the *Mytho* can arrive at Tonquin. Owing to the breakdown of the machinery of the French transport *Vinhlong*, near Colombo, Generals Millot, Briere, de l'Isle, and de Negrier, who were passengers on board, disembarked at Colombo and proceeded to Saigon by the French mail steamer *Anadyr* arriving there on Tuesday, the 5th instant, and they left for Haiphong the following day by the *Saigon*. They were preceded by the cruiser *Hamelin* carrying urgent despatches from General Millot to Admiral Courbet.

A SPORTING correspondent of the *Exeter Gazette* states that a series of inquiries have been addressed by a northern doctor to eighty head-masters on the subject of football casualties, and that answers have been received from forty gentlemen who have had in their charge upwards of 3,500 pupils. They report forty-six fractures, chiefly of the collar-bone, ninety-three dislocations and sprains, and twenty-three other injuries. One master sarcastically suggests that the risks of football be lessened by wrapping the players in cotton-wool and letting them play in goloshes and umbrellas.

It is a common saying among Japanese vegetable growers that one radish (*daikon*) grown at Miya-shige (Owari), takes two men to carry it, and that two Satsuma turnips make a load for one pony. This sounds somewhat "tall," but so far

as the Satsuma turnip is concerned, the statement is little, if at all, exaggerated. One of these monster vegetables was presented to the Emperor the other day by the Shimadzu family. It measured over six feet in girth. The curious thing about these enormous turnips is that they are generally sound to the core, and that, when skilfully boiled, or steamed, they are an exceedingly delicate and palatable aliment.

THE Newcastle Chronicle says:—"Should the full strength at the disposal of France be pitted against the Celestials, we have never had two opinions about the upshot. China has made vast progress in her military organisation, but she cannot yet cope successfully with the skill, energy, and enlightenment of a great European Power. A more important question is—Can the Republic of France afford to imperil its existence by undertaking a great war on the far side of Asia, and leading the nation, in the teeth of its political prejudices, into a distant adventure more hazardous and inexcusable than that of Mexico, which was the first nail in the coffin of the Empire?"

THE example of lucrative law-breaking carried on with impunity is apt to have a demoralizing effect. The gambling establishment recently opened at the old Auction Mart in Nagasaki has proved so successful that a similar concern has been set a-going at a place known as the old Fulton Market in the same Settlement. These enterprises are forcible illustrations of what might happen on a very much larger scale if people were so minded. By an unwarrantable and illogical rendering of the treaties, the Japanese have been deprived of all municipal authority in the foreign settlements, while, on the other hand, it is not even pretended that foreigners themselves have any right to exercise that authority. The consequence is that the maintenance of peace and order depend entirely on the disposition of the residents. Should there happen to be discerned some prospect of gain or convenience by infringing the municipal regulations to which the Japanese are subject, then the only safe-guard left for the regulations is the virtuous instinct of publicans and adventurers. This state of affairs does credit to the patriotism and sagacity of diplomatists who concluded that no law at all was better than a law not of their own making. That the paralysis of government produced by an arbitrary and absurd interpretation of the treaties has not led to worse things than the occasional establishment of a gambling saloon or an exchange shop in open defiance of the laws of the land, is quite a creditable feature of foreign intercourse with this country.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, speaking of the Czar Nicholas and the proposals he made in his celebrated conversations with Sir G. Hamilton Seymour, says that the Western idea of honour had not quite got possession of the Russian potentate's mind, and compares him to a savage who is ambitious of learning the ways of civilization, and who may be counted on to do whatever he knows to be in accordance with these ways, but who is constantly liable to make a mistake simply from not knowing how to apply them in each new emergency. A writer of contemporary history is at one serious disadvantage. He runs the risk of seeing his theories hopelessly upset by the sequel of the events on which they are based. There can be no doubt that Justin

McCarthy's language expresses, justly enough, the ideas entertained by the majority of Englishmen at the time when he wrote. But judged by what has since happened, the semi-civilized potentate's notions assume a new character. He thought that Serbia and Bulgaria might become independent states, and that Turkey was too sick to be left any larger to her own devices; and he said that if England would let him alone to deal with the patient, she might take possession of Egypt and Candia, should the reorganization of South-Eastern Europe seem to render such a step advisable. England, of course, thought it would be highly improper to enter into any such compact without the knowledge of the other European Powers, and thenceforth, ceasing to regard Nicholas as a sincere friend, counted him an unprincipled plotter and plunderer, not to be made an associate in any engagement. The result of this little bit of sentiment, so far as Great Britain is concerned, is that, after two wars, involving the expenditure of tens of thousands of lives and seventy or eighty millions of treasure, she is drifting, point by point, into the very position which Nicholas would have had her assume without loss or bloodshed in 1853. Preferring Cyprus to Candia, she took possession of the former without consulting any of the Great Powers, and she is now occupying Egypt under circumstances that do not present the least prospect of her being able to withdraw. Ill-natured critics might be disposed to say that while she declined to let Nicholas have his share of the proposed compact, she has not failed to take her own. But the truth is that events have been too strong for her. There are phases of international policy which refuse to shape themselves by the principles of high morality. The Czar's method of dealing with European complications thirty years ago savoured slightly of scheming and spoliation, but if his ideas of international honour seemed a little behind the period, his political sagacity was a quarter of a century before it. From a material point of view the gain would have been immense had his programme been carried out, and though England might have forfeited a little of her self-respect, she would have been saved the injustice of imputing dishonest motives to an honest friend.

MR. LOWELL, having made himself very popular in England, is fast becoming an object of execration among the lower social strata of his own countrymen. In the eyes of Irish-Americans the greatest sin that can be laid to the charge of an United States' official is to be the friend of Englishmen. The *London World*, in a moment of giddy effusiveness, mentions, among Minister Lowell's titles to be liked, that "the arms of the United States are nowhere conspicuously emblazoned" about the Legation, that "you cannot detect in the tones of his voice the slightest Americanism." These are grave offences. An American journal makes them the text of a vigorous pasquinade against a diplomatist who is "more English than the English themselves." The talented writer and refined scholar is called "dishonorable" because he "declines to conspicuously emblazon the arms of his country," and speaks without a nasal twang. He is said to represent "that foreign-worshipping element of our Eastern cities who look upon their nationality as a misfortune and a disgrace, and would gladly welcome the restoration of British institutions over the ashes of our Republic." Another

writer thinks that "there is only one thing conspicuously absent from Mr. Lowell's career to make his identification with the worst conceivable toadyism to loyalty complete, and that is his singular failure to have written an elegy on John Brown." This patriotic journalist declares that an American Representative abroad should be a man "who would connect with the idea of the United States the fact that it is a nation which has attained its maturity through a defiance, and not an imitation, of foreign institutions:" a man who would remember that "a quarter of a century has not elapsed since Great Britain sent from her ports ships gunned with British guns and manned with British seamen to destroy the Government of the United States, and that she would do the same thing to-morrow were circumstances as favorable as when she launched her Confederate cruisers." It is not likely that this vulgar bluster will seriously impair Englishmen's friendship for a nation so closely related to them as the American. The principal feeling excited by the perusal of such wild writing is one of astonishment at the depth and permanence of Federal anger. Even granting that England were guilty of all the sins laid to her charge in connection with her so called "Confederate cruisers," still the worst that she did was to help one party of Americans against another. This, to our thinking, is a sin very much more venial than that of taking part with a foreign power against the United States. But among a certain class of Americans the distinction does not appear to be recognized. To have sympathized with the Confederates is an unpardonable crime. Whether the enduring umbrage its memory causes is to be attributed to the intensity of the North's wrath against the South, or to independent jealousy of England and Englishmen, it is pleasant to think that sensible men on both sides have learned to laugh at these acrimonious displays, and to regard their violence only as a proof of their growing insignificance.

THE REV. W. C. DAVISSON, of the American Methodist Episcopal Church Missions, who, in addition to the arduous task involved by his own duties, undertook the Pastorate of the Union Church over twelve months ago, will preach his farewell sermon to-morrow (Sunday) morning, prior to his departure for America by the Pacific Mail steamship *City of Rio de Janeiro*. During Mr. Davisson's connection with the Union Church, the congregation has nearly doubled in numbers, the hymn-book formerly in use has been changed for a more suitable one, the singing at the services has undergone a marked improvement, and the finances of the Church are in a far healthier condition than they have ever been previously, the balance at present in the Treasurer's hands reflecting great credit both upon Mr. Davisson and the officers of the Church who have assisted him in the conduct of affairs. Mr. Davisson will probably not return to Japan, and a large circle of friends beside his congregation wish him a pleasant voyage and a safe return to his native country.

It has long been understood that trees of the same kind do not generally flourish on opposite sides of the same continent. As a rule, the conifers of the Pacific Coast languish when planted on the Atlantic seaboard, and our oaks and hickories die in California and Oregon. The case is different with the corresponding shores of two continents. The ocean currents

and other causes make the climatic conditions of Eastern Asia more like our own, while the moist airs of Western Europe resemble those of our Pacific Coast. For this reason, California trees flourish in England, while, by natural selection, the forests of China and Japan are more nearly akin to our own. Indeed, a large percentage of the decorative plants on our lawns have come from Eastern Asia. Among the well-known deciduous trees are the alantus, sophora, kalreuteria, paulownia, Japanese maples and Chinese magnolias, with such conifers as the retimosporas, ginkgo Japan larch, umbrella pine, and Chinese cypress; beside shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants without number. It is not surprising, then, that the trees of Western Europe take kindly to our California climate, and these introductions may prove of great value to a region which is so rich in evergreen forests, but poverty stricken as regards hard wood. For some years past the English oak (*quercus robur*, var. *pedunculata*) has been tested on the grounds of the University of California alongside of our own oaks and other foreign ones. During the first two seasons the growth of the English oak exceeded from two or three times that made by any other, besides throwing out many more branches. The tree is a most valuable one, and serves in Europe most of the services for which we use white oak, ash, and hickory; that is all purposes where strength, elasticity, and toughness are required. A considerable supply of fresh acorns has been lately imported and planted with a view to the distribution of the seedlings when a year old. Besides this, Professor Hilgard invites application for acorns by those who wish to test the tree for forest planting in the different climatic regions of the State.—*Philadelphia Weekly Press*.

REUTER'S enigmatical telegram, dated February 16th, stating that General Gordon had "recognized" the Mahdi, has been variously and amusingly translated by the vernacular press. The *Choya Shimibun* has, like many others, construed "recognized" by "acknowledged the supremacy." It states that the "gallant English General has made the False Prophet ruler of the Soudan," and gives vent to the opinion that as "the rebel chieftain has now accomplished his desire there will be no further disturbance in Egypt!"

A RECENT issue of an Indian contemporary has the following:—Professor Arminius Vambery has been giving his opinion on the Soudan disaster. He was interviewed by a reporter in Vienna, and his reply is well worth quoting in full. The veteran Orientalist is reported to have spoken to the following effect:—There is no reason for fearing disastrous consequences from Hicks Pasha's defeat. The Mahdi, as is well known to the lower classes, does not descend from the Khoreish family. None of the signs which are promised simultaneously with his appearance have appeared. The sun does not rise in the west. The stars do not fall. Antichrist has not appeared. Mecca and Medina are not destroyed. Without these signs, people will not believe in him. The Mahdi is much the same as many prophets who come forward in the East, and are basinadoed or imprisoned for their pains. He may perhaps, invade Khartoum, but he cannot endanger England's position in Egypt, if it adopts the motto—"J'y suis et j'y reste." The whole affair is doubtless a continuation of

Arabi's work, and if the cowardice of the Egyptians and all Africans is considered, we may rely upon it that a couple of English regiments will suffice to destroy the Mahdi's army, notwithstanding its fanaticism. It was most unlucky that the climate combined with Hicks Pasha's enemies, but it was reckless of the English to trust Mahomedans, who will never scruple to betray Europeans, since the Koran says that unbelievers have no claim to their fidelity. There can be no doubt that the Mahomedans exaggerate the importance of the Mahdi's victory.

An article on the subject of the comparative bravery of the French troops under the Empire and under the present Government appears in the *République Française*. It says:—"Upwards of 300 men were killed and wounded in the five days' march and fighting which resulted in the capture of Song Tay. That is about ten per cent. of the combatants engaged. It is not surprising that it was a warm affair, since the enemy was under cover of his entrenchments. But our soldiers were well handled, and had confidence in their officers, and, when that is the case, success is not doubtful. What becomes of the argument put forward by detractors both in the tribune and in the press, that the Republic disorganises the army? Could the army have done better than it has done? More than 30,000 officers and soldiers have volunteered for Tonquin. In 1859, under the Empire, the Government offered an increase of one-third in the pay of the officers, and the pay of the troops was also augmented. No promise of this kind has been made by the present Government. The military spirit prevailing in our army is, therefore, as great as, if not greater than, at another epoch of our national history."

HIS EXCELLENCY INOUE, Minister for Foreign Affairs, was a passenger from Kobe in the Mitsu Bishi mail steamer *Tokio Maru* which arrived here on Thursday morning. His Excellency was accompanied by his wife and daughter, and the party on landing proceeded at once to Tokio. Mr. Yoshikawa, the Governor of Tokio, was also a passenger by the *Tokio Maru*.

It is stated that in future a battalion of infantry will be detailed for fire duty in Tokyo and the other garrison cities of Japan. Attached to the battalion will be a company with pumps. It has always been a matter of surprise to foreigners that no use is made of the troops during conflagrations in the capital, but we confess that our confidence in the discipline of the soldiers is not such as to warrant us in congratulating the citizens on the measure now in contemplation.

An American journal says:—"Ancient ruins, which a contemporary says surpass anything of the kind yet discovered on the American continent, have been found in Sonora, about four leagues south-east of Magdalena, Mexico. There is one pyramid which has a base of 4,350 feet, and rises to a height of 750 feet. It has a winding roadway from the bottom leading by an easy grade to the top, wide enough for carriages to pass over, which is many miles in length. The outer walls of the roadway are laid in solid masonry from huge blocks of granite in rubble, and the circles are as uniform and the grade as regular as could be made at this date by the best engineers. To the east of the pyramid, a short distance off, is a small mountain about the same height. On the sides of this mountain a

people of an unknown age have cut hundreds upon hundreds of rooms, from 5 feet by 10 feet to 16 feet or 18 feet square. These rooms are cut out of solid stone, and so even and true are the walls, floor, and ceiling, so plumb and level, as to defy variation. There are no windows to the rooms, and but one entrance, which is always from the top. The rooms are 8 feet high from floor to ceiling. On the walls are numerous hieroglyphics and representations of human forms, with feet and hands of human beings cut in the stone in different places. Stone implements of every description are to be found in great numbers in and about the rooms. It is, of course, a matter of much speculation as to who the inhabitants were and in what age they lived. Some say they were the ancestors of the Mayos, a race of Indians who still inhabit Sonora, who have blue eyes, fair skin, and light hair, and are said to be a moral, industrious, and frugal race of people, who have a written language and know something of mathematics."

REFERRING to the frequent removal of old landmarks in London, the *Whitehall Review* says:—"Portsmouth Street, Lincoln's Inn, which is receiving so many visitors by reason of the approaching demolition of that venerable imposture the so-called original "Old Curiosity Shop," contained in the memories of many of us a far greater, and certainly genuine, attraction in the shape of the old Black Jack public-house, celebrated as the favourite resort of that Joe Miller with whose time-honoured jokes such unwarrantable liberties have been, and we fear always will be, taken. From an upper window of the Black Jack, long known as the "Jump," Jack Sheppard made one of his memorable escapes to avoid the too close attentions of Jonathan Wild and Blueskin. The window has been pointed out to countless visitors, and has duly figured in the pages of Harrison Ainsworth and chroniclers of the adventures of Jack Sheppard, and other heroes of the Newgate Calendar. Has not also the pencil of George Cruikshank duly limned the Black Jack and its window?—which, if we mistake not, figures in that drama of Buckstone's which owed its main success to the "Jack" of Mrs. Keeley, and which brought such grist to the mill of the old Adelphi Theatre. We wonder how the tumble-down tenement in the aforesaid Portsmouth Street has come to be associated with that "Old Curiosity Shop" from which Little Nell and her grandfather went forth hand in hand? There is nothing to bear out the assertion that it was the original of the old bric-a-brac shop—nothing in the pages of Dickens to connect it with Nell's home. And why is the Black Jack supposed to be identical with the Magpie and Stump which figures in the immortal pages of Pickwick? Those who search for the genuine Magpie will have as hopeless a task as that of finding the George and Vulture, in George Yard, Lombard Street, with the veritable Sam Weller in attendance on Mr. Pickwick. The aforesaid Magpie and Stump was situated, we are told, in the vicinity of Clare Market, and closely approximating to the back of New Inn. Hence the association of the Black Jack with the hostelry sacred to the evening orgies of Mr. Lowton and his companions, and where Mr. Pickwick listened to the old man's tale about a queer client."

A FULL-PAGE photograph of "two famous Japanese wrestlers" appears in one of the

American "Society" papers. It may interest the public to know that these are the two athletes engaged by Barnum's wily agent in this country last year. Their "fame," however, is confined to the other side of the water, as they were considered but very third-rate artists here. Still, our friends across the Pacific have given them a very hearty welcome, and have gone into raptures over the "graceful poses" of the two wrestlers.

TELEGRAPHIC news announces that an attempt, fortunately unsuccessful, has been made upon the life of His Majesty the King of Italy. The only particulars to hand are that His Majesty was attacked in the train while on his way home from a hunting party.

THE Japanese journals in the capital announce that certain well-known physicians are taking steps towards establishing a "health-recruiting" club (*Yosei-kan*) at the Atami Hot Springs. A fund of 30,000 yen is to be raised in 300 shares at 100 yen, to be paid in five instalments. The rules of the club will be sent to any applicant on receipt of a two sen stamp.

THE next lecture of the course being delivered at the Meiji Kwaido, Tokyo, gave on Friday afternoon, commencing at three o'clock. Dr. Verbeck is the lecturer, and the subject will be—"Points of Similarity and Dissimilarity in Science and Religion."

WE have received the prospectus of a new work now in the press and to be published in March, "Practical and Inductive Book-keeping," by Professor J. L. Hart-Milner, of the Commercial School, Macao. The contents indicate that the work will be a thoroughly exhaustive one, and this, taken with the author's name, should ensure it a large circulation.

THE Mume Yashiki or Plum Garden at Kamada, near Kawasaki, is already driving a thriving trade in refreshments to would-be admirers of the blossoms. But, as a matter of fact, not a single petal is yet out, nor will the place be worth visiting for another ten days or a fortnight.

A GREAT many complaints with regard to this year's oyster crop have been made of late. This mollusc is not always digestible, and, just at present, is rather less so than at other times. It was to this fact that the Roman poet evidently referred in the words *Sic itur ad astra*—i.e. sick eater 'ad oysters.

WE learn with pleasure that the submarine telegraph cable between Saigon and Tongking, which the Eastern Telegraph Company contracted to lay for the Government of France, has been successfully completed. The cable connects Saigon with Thuan (Annam) and Haiphong (Tongking).

A LONDON paper, writing shortly after the New Year on the infliction of the "waits," says:—"It is a mercy that the dismal serenaders have left off for another year. What induces people to perpetuate this nuisance by paying for it we cannot imagine. We heard of an unhappy man who last week had three bands about his house at the same hour in the middle of the night. Of course they each played different tunes—the one that stayed longest giving at last Keble's Evening Hymn, and then, by way of benediction, "Coming through the Rye."

COMMERCIAL DEPRESSION AND CURRENCY APPRECIATION.

JAPAN has had to pay a heavy tax for the success of the revolution that abolished feudalism and inaugurated an era of progress and enlightenment. Inconvertible paper money, or revolutionary currency, as it has been well called, is an indirect tax, somewhat unequally and irregularly imposed, and yet as nearly equitable as any public measure born amid the exigencies and confusion of a great social change can possibly be. When it is considered that the Government of the Restoration came into power with an empty treasury; that it was obliged to assume a heavy burden of debt; that it found the finances of the empire completely disorganized; that several varieties of depreciated fiat notes were already in circulation; that it had to create a central administration, as well as to construct an army, a navy, postal, telegraphic, police, and educational, systems, and at the same time to encourage or take the initiative in many species of commercial and industrial enterprise,—when all these things are considered, there seems more to applaud than to censure in the recent financial history of this country. Indeed, it is doubtful whether the issue of *Kinsatsu*, and the conversion of the military pensions into public bonds, must not be regarded as measures of much political sagacity. Economists hint that without its enormous national debt the Government of Great Britain could scarcely have resisted the political convulsions of 1848; and certainly it could not otherwise have counted on the hearty support it received from every stock-holder and shopkeeper in London. So, in Japan's case, there can be little question that the pecuniary obligations which the Government assumed towards the people, gave the latter a material interest in guaranteeing its stability. On the other hand, it is very certain that the prolonged use of fiat paper, and the fluctuations in its value caused by inflation, do at least as much harm to the morals of a country as to its commerce, its reputation and its financial well being. Japan's gradual return to specie payments is, therefore, a result which those interested in her prosperity observe with much satisfaction.

We say "gradual return," because in a process of this nature, nothing is more to be deprecated than precipitancy. Reversion to a hard-money circulation must, under any circumstances, carry a country back, by a revulsion cruel in the direct ratio of its rapidity, to such a state of collapse as sometimes follows the excitement and delirium of a fever. Industry is depressed, prices fall, trade stagnates, and bankruptcies become numerous. The harm and wrong fall on the debtor classes, who are the most numerous and least able to bear losses. It has to be remembered, too, that the depreciation of paper money is

really a tax, inasmuch as the paper is issued originally to avoid the necessity of a direct tax, and each person through whose hands it passes, parts with it again at a loss proportionate to the quantity he holds and the time he holds it. The total loss is thus divided among those using the paper in just proportion to their ability and liability to pay a tax. The payment of the whole value borne on the face of a fiat note to the last holder, who has received it at a large discount, would only be to impose a second tax on the same persons who have already been fairly and heavily taxed by the depreciation of the note. These principal reasons make it imperative that financiers should prepare the way for a resumption of specie payments with the utmost deliberation and care. Heroic measures, such as those which used to be so vigorously advocated by the foreign local press of Yokohama some years ago, could not have been applied without disastrous consequences.

Without attempting to controvert the self-evident proposition that the degree of public confidence in fiat paper must, to some extent, influence its value, we may say, generally, that the value of such money is primarily controlled by its quantity. Inconvertible notes will not sensibly depreciate, other things being equal, until issued in excess of the minimum of the money which the people would use if it was metallic. It follows, therefore, that since any considerable depreciation may be regarded as a sign of excessive issues, the first step towards restoring equilibrium between paper and specie is to contract the volume of the former. This is what the Government has been doing for the past four years. In 1875-76, the quantity of *Kinsatsu* in circulation was 98½ millions, approximately, and silver was at a premium of 5 per cent. In 1878-79, the quantity of *Kinsatsu* was increased to 177 millions, and the premium on silver soon rose to 60 or 70 per cent. To understand these great and rapid changes, it is necessary to recall three facts. First, the rebellion in the South, and other exceptional events, obliged the Central Government to add 22½ millions to its note issues, thus raising their nominal total from 98½ to 121, millions. Secondly, the special reserve also went into circulation. The *raison d'être* of the special reserve is to defray the current expenses of the State at times when incomings are temporarily insufficient to cover outgoings. In 1878-79, it amounted to 22 millions, the whole of which was added to the volume of the currency. Thirdly, the National Banks, established in 1876 under conditions which rendered their rapid growth a certainty, issued paper of their own to the extent of 34 millions. Thus, in sum, the years 1878 and 1879 witnessed an inflation of about 78 millions of *yen*. Under these circumstances, it is not wonderful that rapid depreciation ensued, until, in the fall of 1880,

a paper *yen* was only worth 56 *sen* in silver.

The first step taken in the direction of contraction seems to have been the recall of the 22 millions which had constituted the special reserve. This was effected without much difficulty. The Finance Minister then proceeded to deal with the 121 millions which represented the nominal amount of the Treasury's issues. These he has succeeded in reducing by 29 millions¹, so that the total of the Government's paper now in circulation is only 91,580,000. It is not in our power to detail the exact processes by which this result has been achieved. Foremost among them, doubtless, is the sale of bonds. A considerable quantity of these securities had been accumulated by the late Minister of Finance, in lieu of the specie and other reserves which he found in the Treasury; and the Government has probably been able to dispose of them on advantageous terms. Finally, in accordance with the scheme published last May, the note-issuing power of the National Banks has been taken away, and measures are in progress to withdraw the whole of their paper by 1898. Thus the volume of the currency has been diminished by fully 50 millions since 1879, and the result is that a paper *yen* is now worth 90 *sen* in silver.

Contemporaneously with this contraction of its note issues, the Government has applied itself to accumulate a specie reserve for their ultimate redemption. Twenty-two millions are said to be now at the Treasury's command in silver and gold, and it is hoped that during the course of the next three years the total will be raised to thirty millions. Of the principal devices adopted in connection with this part of the scheme, we have already spoken in previous issues.

That the economies and accumulations of the Minister of Finance should have amounted to upwards of seventy million *yen* in less than five years, is somewhat difficult to realize. Yet it is scarcely credible that transactions of less magnitude could have produced the very remarkable appreciation of the past eighteen months. There may be differences of opinion as to the wisdom of such rapid manipulation, but there can be no question that it displays a degree of financial energy which places the future of Japan's fiduciary currency beyond the range of doubt.

Meanwhile, however, industry and trade have suffered severely. The same evils that overtook Great Britain and the United States at the period of their return to specie payments were experienced here in 1883, and are still experienced. This part of the subject is full of interest, since it involves the vital question—has the depression reached its maximum, or must we expect to see it still further intensified? In order to appreciate what has really happened, it will be necessary to examine a few figures, and we cannot do better than

¹ We take this figure from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*.

commence with agricultural returns, since in Japan the condition of the farmers is a true measure of the country's prosperity. With this object we have prepared four tables, showing the returns of agricultural industry in as many different districts for each year since 1879. These tables are as follows:—

KADSUSA DISTRICT.

	1879. KOKU.	1880. KOKU.	1881. KOKU.	1882. KOKU.	1883. KOKU.
Landlord's share of produce per <i>cho</i> (3,000 <i>tsubo</i> —about 2½ acres)	18	18	18	18	18
Total value of above	YEN. 138.46	YEN. 200.00	YEN. 174.11.8	YEN. 152.00	YEN. 100.00
Value per <i>koku</i>	7.09	11.11.1	9.12.3	8.44.4	5.55.5
Land Tax (<i>Chiso</i>)	18.11.8	18.11.8	18.11.8	18.11.8	18.11.8
Local Tax (<i>Chihshai</i>) and expenses of irrigation (<i>Tsui-hi</i>)	7.42.5	7.21.1	8.33.1	8.09.7	7.80.5
Net value of produce	112.91.9	174.68.2	144.96.9	125.78.2	74.70.7
Value of land as assessed for purposes of taxation (<i>Chikendaka</i>)	724.53.2	724.53.2	724.53.2	724.53.2	724.53.2
Market value of land (<i>Bai-bai Soba</i>)	1,800	2,250	3,000	1,636	1,335
Net interest on Assessed value	15.5	24.1	20	17.3	10
Net interest on market value	6.3	7.8	7.2	7.6	5.5

KUMAGAYE DISTRICT.

	1879. KOKU.	1880. KOKU.	1881. KOKU.	1882. KOKU.	1883. KOKU.
Landlord's share of produce per <i>cho</i> (3,000 <i>tsubo</i> —about 2½ acres)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5
Total value of above	YEN. 175.29	YEN. 145.39.5	YEN. 153.27.0	YEN. 125.46.9	YEN. 96.39
Value per <i>koku</i>	8.52.4	10.77	11.33.5	9.29.4	7.14
Land Tax (<i>Chiso</i>)	20	20	20	20	20
Local Tax (<i>Chihshai</i>) and expenses of irrigation (<i>Tsui-hi</i>)	6.50	7.86.6	9.23	7.36	8.36
Net value of produce	88.79	117.72.9	124.04.9	98.10.9	68.03
Value of land as assessed for purposes of taxation (<i>Chikendaka</i>)	800	800	800	800	800
Market value of land (<i>Bai-bai Soba</i>)	1,250	1,400	1,500	1,250	1,000
Net interest on Assessed value	11.1	14.8	15.5	12.2	8.5
Net interest on market value	7.1	8.4	8.2	7.8	6.8

URAWA DISTRICT.

	1879. KOKU.	1880. KOKU.	1881. KOKU.	1882. KOKU.	1883. KOKU.
Landlord's share of produce per <i>cho</i> (3,000 <i>tsubo</i> —about 2½ acres)	12	12	12	12	12
Total value of above	YEN. 107.30.4	YEN. 135.58.8	YEN. 140.48	YEN. 119.49.6	YEN. 87.30
Value per <i>koku</i>	8.94.3	11.29.9	11.70.7	9.95.8	7.27.5
Land Tax (<i>Chiso</i>)	17.12.5	17.12.5	17.12.5	17.12.5	17.12.5
Local Tax (<i>Chihshai</i>) and expenses of irrigation (<i>Tsui-hi</i>)	5.13.75	6.85	6.16.5	7.60	7.53.5
Net value of produce	85.15.4	111.72.55	117.30.65	94.88	62.75.1
Value of land as assessed for purposes of taxation (<i>Chikendaka</i>)	685	685	685	685	685
Market value of land (<i>Bai-bai Soba</i>)	800	800	1,200	1,200	900
Net interest on Assessed value	12.4	16.3	17.1	13.8	9.1
Net interest on market value	10.6	13.9	9.7	7.9	6.9

KAMADA DISTRICT.

	1879. KOKU.	1880. KOKU.	1881. KOKU.	1882. KOKU.	1883. KOKU.
Landlord's share of produce per <i>cho</i> (3,000 <i>tsubo</i> —about 2½ acres)	10	10	10	10	10
Total value of above	YEN. 84.74	YEN. 108.84	YEN. 122.49	YEN. 97.98	YEN. 60.88
Value per <i>koku</i>	8.47.4	10.88.4	12.24.9	9.79.8	6.08
Land Tax (<i>Chiso</i>)	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75
Local Tax (<i>Chihshai</i>) and expenses of irrigation (<i>Tsui-hi</i>)	5.55	5.55	11.25	12	11.25
Net value of produce	60.44	84.64	92.71.5	66.34.8	39.88
Value of land as assessed for purposes of taxation (<i>Chikendaka</i>)	750	750	750	750	750
Market value of land (<i>Bai-bai Soba</i>)	850	900	1,000	900	800
Net interest on Assessed value	8.9	11.3	12.36	8.84	4.1
Net interest on market value	7.1	9.4	9.27	7.3	5.8

In order to form a clear conception of the statistical import of the above figures, it becomes necessary to re-group them in comparative tables as follows:—

TABLE I.

Comparative market values of rice-land from 1879 to 1883, taking the value in the former year as the unit (100).

YEAR.	VALUE.
1879	100
1880	113.83
1881	121.28
1882	106.08
1883	85.80

* N.B.—This figure shows a variation from the general rate of change, owing, apparently, to an exceptional attraction of capital towards land investments.

TABLE II.

Comparative returns on capital invested in land from 1879 to 1883, taking the return in the former year as the unit (100).

YEAR.	RETURN.
1879	100
1880	127
1881	110.5
1882	98.5
1883	73.95

TABLE III.

Comparative incomes actually derived from land (without reference to capital invested) from 1879 to 1883, taking the income in the former year as the unit (100).

YEAR.	INCOME.
1879	100
1880	140.73
1881	137.93
1882	110.88
1883	68.06

These figures, especially those in the last table, are striking. They show that the income of the Japanese agriculturist in 1883 was less than half of his income in 1880 or 1881, and nearly forty per cent. less than his income in 1882. It will be seen, too, from the tables of details, that the average price of rice in 1883 is taken as 6.71 *yen* per *koku*, whereas the price at present ruling in Tokiyo is only 5.10 *yen*. Should the latter rate hold, the agriculturist's income in the current year will be represented in Table III. by a figure less than 50.

The significance of these facts is not to be mistaken. When we remember that the land-tax constitutes nearly sixty-five per cent. of the State's revenue in Japan, it becomes plain that the condition of the whole people is intimately associated with that of the agricultural classes, and that some improvement in the latter must precede any real revival of industry and commerce. There can be no active market for foreign goods so long as the practice of a rigid economy is an imperative necessity for the bulk of the nation.

How much of the above results are attributable to currency contraction, there is no possibility of determining with accuracy. It is a well known fact in political economy that prices always fall and rise somewhat beyond the permanent effect of the causes which influence them, and that in either case there is a reaction to the extent of the excess. During the past five years we have seen a paper *yen* sell for only 56 cents in silver, and then appreciate steadily until it now sells for 90 silver cents. Rice, during the same interval, rose in value to 12 *yen* per *koku*, and fell again to 4.90 *yen*, thus fluctuating within much wider limits than *Kinsatsu*. Something of this is doubtless due to the plentiful harvests which succeeded one another from 1879 to 1883. The production of rice exceeded the wants of the people, and so long as currency inflation continued the price of the staple was sustained at a high point by exceptional causes. When the general depression resulting from currency contraction set in,

stores of rice, accumulated in prosperous times, were thrown upon the market, thus helping to accentuate the mischief. While, therefore, the first symptoms of reaction will probably be discernible in the quotations of the rice market, we shall arrive at a more accurate estimate of the effects of currency contraction by excluding that staple from our calculations.

It is only by the price of commodities that the value of money can be ascertained and compared. In England, during the suspension of specie payments, from 1797 to 1821, prices gradually rose from 100, in 1795, to 157, in 1809. After the pacification of 1815, and the resumption of specie payments throughout Europe, prices again fell, until, in 1849, they reached 54. Similar causes have been everywhere followed by similar effects, and the following schedule will show that Japan has not been exceptional. For purposes of comparison we take, in each case, the price ruling in 1879 as the unit, and call it 100:—

Comparative Table of prices of the principal staples and necessities from 1879 to 1883, the prices ruling in the former year being taken as the unit in each case.

N.B.—Rice, *Saké*, and Tobacco are omitted from the body of this table; the first for the reason mentioned above, and the two last because exceptional taxation has prevented their prices from fluctuating like other commodities.

ARTICLE.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
Cotton cloth (<i>Mo-men</i>)	100	123	155	145	106
Floss silk	100	152	134	132	113
Cotton (<i>Wata</i>)	100	115	152	130	110
Hemp	100	102	126	91	56
Salt	100	83	84	78	70
(<i>Miso</i>)	100	107	112	102	85
(<i>Shoyu</i>)	100	105	113	111	108
Sugar 1st quality	100	108	122	113	86
2nd quality	100	101	115	111	80
Tea	100	111	134	122	96
Dried Fish (<i>Ka-tsu-no-boshi</i>)	100	162	209	190	164
Eggs	100	124	152	150	101
Lamp oil (<i>Mi-dsu-abura</i>)	100	87	143	139	89
Cooking oil (<i>Go-ma-no-abura</i>)	100	117	180	153	114
Oil for painting, &c. (<i>Ye-no-abura</i>)	100	112	175	156	114
Coal	100	100	109	101	81
Charcoal	100	105	124	130	105
Matting (<i>Tata-mi-no-omote</i>)	100	108	121	121	99
Paper (<i>Hanshi</i>)	100	97	98	102	91
Wax	100	121	115	94	65
Average	100	112	134	124	97

Average price of silver	100	111.5	127	116	96
Average price of rice	100	134	152	110	83

The influence of currency inflation upon values is plainly shown by this table. It appears, too, that, on the whole, prices have fallen below the level at which they stood before the effects of inflation began to be seriously felt, a fact which inspires a hope that some reaction may soon be expected. Japan has to go through the same experiences as other countries under similar circumstances. She may congratulate herself that her sufferings have not been more severe.

THE YOKOHAMA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND TREATY
REVISION.

AT the Annual Meeting of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce, Mr. A. J. WILKIN spoke at some length on the subject of treaty revision, more especially with reference to a proposed modification of the existing system of extraterritorial jurisdiction. Whether his remarks were intended as an outline of the Chamber's opinion, or whether they embodied his own ideas only, there is a difficulty in determining. He opened his speech by saying that some expression from the Chamber on the extraterritorial question seemed advisable, but we are nevertheless disposed to think that he spoke merely as an individual, first because his observations were not made the subject of any resolution, and secondly because their nature was in some respects incompatible with the hypothesis that they had received the previous scrutiny and endorsement of a body of thoughtful men.

We may say at once, that while we dissent in the main from Mr. WILKIN'S views as formulated at this meeting, we hail their public expression with much satisfaction. The conservative section of the foreign community has been too long represented by men who, whatever their loyalty to the cause they champion, are so manifestly swayed by bitter aversion of everything Japanese, that their utterances assume the appearance of unreasoning hostility, and impart to the people of this country a wholly false idea of foreign sentiment. From this fault, at any rate, Mr. WILKIN'S statements are free. It would be difficult to find any one in Yokohama whose character is a better guarantee for the sincerity and kindliness of his opinions.

He sets out by deprecating any tendency to obscure the question by "selfish or sentimental considerations," and then goes on to say that while Japan ought, by all means, to have her sovereign rights, the fact that others have rights also must not be overlooked. What the latter rights are, he does not exactly explain, but we gather, from the general tenor of his speech, that he alludes to the extraterritorial privileges conferred by the present treaties. Now nothing is more necessary than to remark, at the outset, that there never has been any expressed desire on Japan's part to suddenly disturb those privileges. Her proposals, as Mr. WILKIN doubtless knows, contemplate nothing more, in the immediate future, than the exercise of a very partial jurisdiction, guaranteed against abuse by various liberal provisions, and to be regarded as a probationary step to more radical changes. It will readily be admitted that the treaties signed in 1856 were never intended to be permanent. A date for their revision was distinctly fixed. It will also be admitted that the term "revision" was never intended to apply to tariff only. Such a supposition would be absurd. If

then, eleven years after the date of revision as fixed by the treaties themselves, Japan asks for a modification—not the abolition, but a modification—of their extraterritorial clauses, it can scarcely be contended that she seeks to recover her own sovereign rights in defiance of the rights of foreigners.

Mr. WILKIN, however, is of opinion that Japan's concern about this matter is much less than the public has been led to suppose. He thinks that her advisers and advocates misrepresent her. Into the latter surmise we cannot follow him; but with regard to the former, we differ from him altogether. Nor need we go beyond his own statement for a justification of our view. "I cannot understand," he says, "how this country can aspire to be considered enlightened and civilized, while it closes the land in this fashion—a relic of darker ages." Now that is exactly what the Japanese themselves feel. They cannot aspire to be called a civilized nation until foreign intercourse has been emancipated from all restrictions, and strangers are as free to travel, trade, and live in Japan, as Japanese are free to live, trade, and travel in Europe or America. That is their feeling, a feeling which may or may not have been fomented by their foreign advisers and advocates, but which, at any rate, sways the educated classes so powerfully that it finds expression, publicly and privately, in all their writings and speeches. The Government, then, sharing this sentiment and recognising its strength as well as the danger of ignoring it, seeks to accomplish what it regards as an absolutely essential preliminary to the opening of the country,—namely, a modification of existing extraterritorial arrangements.

Here, however, Mr. WILKIN joins issue with the Government. "The plea that the opening of the country might lead to trouble without full jurisdiction, breaks down," he tells us, "under the result of actual experience." This is a very interesting statement. It is interesting because the great majority of foreign writers have hitherto agreed that the Japanese would not be justified in opening their country unless some provision were made for the government of foreigners in the interior. The reason is simple. To extend the privileges of trade and residence throughout Japan to persons who are only amenable to the jurisdiction of Courts sitting at one or two remote villages on the sea-coast, would be a virtual denial of justice to native suitors. The imperfections and inconveniences of sixteen conflicting jurisdictions, even when the area of their authority is confined to the open ports, have been sufficiently demonstrated to deprive the Japanese of all choice in this matter. How, then, does Mr. WILKIN obtain a different deduction from "actual experience"? By reference to the results of the passport system. "During the few years in which the passport system—an enlightened step in advance—has been

working," he says, "by the British Legation alone several thousand, say 7,000, passports have been obtained, and in no single instance is there a record of any serious trouble with any of the holders." We confess that a feeling of hopeless bewilderment creeps over us when we contemplate this argument. During the past fourteen or fifteen years passports have been issued to foreigners on the distinctly stipulated condition that their holders should not engage in any species of trade outside the treaty limits. The privilege, thus safeguarded, has not led to any complications, and Mr. WILKIN now bids us accept this as a proof that no complications would have ensued even though the safeguard had not existed. Such, at least, is the only construction we can put upon his language. The whole question hinges upon the right of trade. Travel merely for purposes of science, sanitation, or recreation admits only a class of persons for whom legal restraint is seldom, if ever, necessary. So soon, however, as trading passports are issued, everybody will find his way into the interior. The exercise of any efficient discretionary power by the Consuls would be quite impossible. As to what may happen under such circumstances, no inference whatever can be drawn from what has happened under existing circumstances. Mr. WILKIN'S argument is singularly inconsequential. He says that Japan cannot aspire to be considered enlightened or civilized until she opens the country, and he contends that the existence of extraterritoriality is not an obstacle to the opening, yet the only proof he advances is that no complications have hitherto attended the exercise of a privilege expressly circumscribed so as to consist with extraterritoriality. We cannot consent to regard this as the deliberate opinion of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce.

Turning now to Mr. WILKIN'S analysis of the conditions that exist, and that formerly existed, in Japan, we are confronted by a list of singular inaccuracies. First among the reasons put forward as justifying extraterritoriality is "the want of any written law." This want, however, is of the past. "Within the last year or two, or two or three years, a written code has been formed," says Mr. WILKIN, "and it is understood that it is to some extent working." It would be difficult to construct a statement better calculated to convey a false impression. Japan has had a written code for centuries. Mr. WILKIN is evidently not a reader of the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society or he would have remembered an analysis of that code made years ago by an English jurisconsult. He is evidently not a reader of the local press, or he would have remembered a lengthened reference to that code recently translated into the columns of this journal from a German pamphlet. He is evidently not a reader of the calendars issued by the principal educational establishments in

Tokyo, or he would know that that code forms a part of the course of law at the University of Japan. But his neglect of these sources of information is as nothing compared with his ignorance of the fact that a new code of criminal law was compiled and promulgated shortly after the Restoration; that it was translated by a member of the British Legation staff and published in English, and that its provisions were commented on over and over again by European experts as well as by foreign writers on and in Japan. Of the Old Code, of the New Code, and of the Revised Code, all antecedent to the present Code, he is apparently wholly oblivious. As for the codes now in force, after many years of preparation, they were finally promulgated in the summer of 1881, and came into force, not "to some extent," as Mr. WILKIN says, but altogether, and everywhere throughout Japan, on January the 1st, 1882. Mr. WILKIN thinks "it would be only decent to see a little how the Codes work before he is entrusted to their care." If the examination is to be conducted at the rate indicated by his present knowledge, not one generation, but half a dozen will pass away before the process is completed.

We do not wish to be misunderstood in this matter. The objection that Japan is unfamiliar with, and therefore not yet competent to administer, her present codes, is natural and to some extent valid. But there is neither justice nor accuracy in the assertion that "for generations all her habits of thought and idea have been in different grooves." Neither Mr. WILKIN, nor any other foreigner, is in a position to define the grooves in which her "habits of thought and idea" formerly moved. These are matters which history has still to elucidate. What we do certainly know is that ever since the Restoration her criminal procedure has been gradually purged of all its cruel elements, and that, although for more than two years she has been governed by laws admittedly abreast of the most advanced systems of the West, her judicial machinery has worked smoothly and her statistics show no increase of crime. In view of these facts, one of two conclusions is inevitable: either that her codes are administered with singular ability, or that the morality of the nation is in consonance with their provisions.

But Mr. WILKIN's surprising carelessness of expression on these points pales before his assertion that torture prevailed in Japan three years ago. This is a cruel libel. Torture was partially abolished by a proclamation issued on the 25th of August, 1874, and wholly interdicted by a proclamation dated June 18th, 1876. The records of the Department of Justice show that since the latter date there has not been one application of torture in the courts of Japan. Again we say that, if Mr. WILKIN's notions are to be taken as an index of his countrymen's knowledge of Japan, there is little hope that

the truth will be recognized during the lifetime of the present generation.

It is weary work discussing such errors, the more so when we remember the source from which they emanate. A few words more will, however, suffice to dissect the last of Mr. WILKIN's delusions. He complains that there is no *habeas corpus* in Japan. There is a story told of an Irishman who, being accustomed to live in a house with broken windows, came to regard paper patches as an ornamental species of glazing. Mr. WILKIN's case is similar. The *habeas corpus* is a device to correct the abuses of imperfect laws. England and the United States have a monopoly of it. It does not exist in France, Germany, Italy, or any other country where the laws are good enough to dispense with it. If Mr. WILKIN thinks it an essential adjunct of Japanese civilization, he must begin by mutilating the laws which in their present complete state render it quite superfluous.

"Is it not still the case," he then proceeds to ask, "that a man can be thrown into prison on a mere suspicion, and kept there for weeks without a trial?" So far as keeping a man in prison on suspicion is concerned, we have known it done, not for weeks, but for months in England. But Mr. WILKIN evidently means that in Japan a man is liable to be treated thus without undergoing any judicial examination. Here again he is wholly mistaken. If he will take the trouble to peruse the Third Book of the Code of Criminal Procedure, he will see that due provision is made for the immediate examination of every prisoner by a police magistrate, who deals with the case or remands it according to its nature. There is, or ought to be, no more delay in Japan than in England.

Mr. WILKIN's next two queries severely tax our gravity. "Shall I be liable to be brow-beaten," he enquires, "if I walk on the bund without a lantern, even under the gas lamps? and is a foreigner to have the privilege of being able to tell his wife she may go—he does not want her any more?" We incline to the belief that Mr. WILKIN has been walking a long time without light of any sort if he thinks that pedestrians in Japan are still obliged to carry lanterns; and as for his conjugal crux—well, if an Englishman can persuade an Englishwoman to marry him *à la Japonnaise*, we presume he will have the privilege of treating her accordingly. These are frivolous issues and unworthy of serious discussion. They furnish an unfortunate preface to the complaint that the state religion of Japan is a paganism. Mr. WILKIN is doubtless actuated by the best motives when he classes this among Japan's disabilities, but it is not the business of any nation, or combination of nations, to dictate a religious faith to Japan, or to make the acknowledgment of her just rights contingent upon her acceptance of a particular creed.

More regrettable, however, than any series of misstatements and misapprehen-

sions is the spirit displayed in Mr. WILKIN's closing remarks, where he deprecates the idea that the opening of the country would be really "a *quid pro quo* for the surrender of alien privileges." He does not deny that foreigners would benefit by the step, but he dismisses the whole prospect with the assurance that Japan's benefit would be much greater. And what if it would? Is Japan under any necessity to purchase from foreigners the rights which belong to every independent State? Must she be condemned to a condition of semi-seclusion, to the status of an unenlightened and uncivilized country, until she can make it worth our while to remove her present disabilities? Mr. WILKIN would be the last person to wittingly advance such a proposition. Yet he fails, apparently, to see that Japan is not more disgraced by her isolation, than are foreigners by their determination to keep her isolated until their own prejudices and misconceptions are removed by some miraculous revelation, and until they can be sure that their material gain by a just act will be at least equivalent to the selfish privileges they surrender in performing it. We have never believed that a logical defence of the conservative cause is possible, but the full extent of its sophistry and weakness had not dawned upon us before reading this speech of Mr. A. J. WILKIN.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

WHEN a Pacific Mail steamer arrives at San Francisco with a contingent of Chinese among the passengers, the Custom House officials proceed to institute a search for concealed opium. The operation partakes, somewhat, of a sporting character, especially in the fact that the whereabouts of the secreted poison appears to be best ascertained by the sense of smell. The searchers become so expert that in the end they trust to the guidance of their noses, and thus dig out deposits of drug much as a terrier ferrets out truffles. We are reminded of this by some remarks contained in a Shanghai contemporary to the effect that the weak points in the drainage system of a house can only be detected by the nasal ability of a professional, and that the Municipal Council ought to insist upon periodically investigating people's back premises and drains by means of a properly qualified inspector. It appears that even in self-governed Shanghai, Englishmen's castled notions about the inviolability of their homes have hitherto interfered with sanitary inspection, and our contemporary, while acknowledging the sanctity of this creed, sensibly says that "there is a point beyond which individual liberty becomes a nuisance and a danger," and that there "judicious tyranny should step in to prevent the mischief which may accrue to the whole Settlement from the

neglect of one man." How long it will be before this principle is practically admitted in Yokohama, we are afraid to speculate. In the proposals drafted by a committee of land-renters more than two years ago there was one providing for the appointment of a Sanitary Committee with power to pay periodical visits to the premises and compounds of all the foreign residents. Obviously essential as such a measure is, any attempt to carry it out by the Japanese local authorities would probably be scouted by more than half of the community. This is perplexing, but what is worse is that the character and morality of the Settlement depend, at present, chiefly upon the good will of the grog shop keepers. The members of that fraternity are under no sort of control. If they were clever enough, they might take charge of Yokohama and defy the community. It is a strange state of affairs. Probably there never yet was offered to public gaze a more wonderful spectacle than that of a number of sensible men wasting months and years in formulating written complaints against the inefficiency of a Government which is confessed to be without the power of governing. The foreign residents complain, with justice, that they know nothing of the municipal laws which the Japanese Authorities profess to enforce. But it does not seem to have occurred to the complainants to ask themselves how a knowledge of those laws could be obtained. It has always been maintained by the Foreign Representatives, with some happy exceptions, that no Japanese laws, as such, are binding upon foreigners. The municipal regulations of the local government cannot, therefore, be authoritatively communicated to the community except through the Foreign Representatives, of whom only two, or three at most, are competent to meddle with such a matter. Thus, even supposing the Japanese agreed to admit that extraterritoriality applies to local as well as to imperial laws—an admission involving all sorts of irrational complications—and supposing they were consequently willing that their municipal regulations should be promulgated through the Foreign Ministers, there would still remain the trouble, that while the regulations could thus be made binding on two or three of the nationalities represented here, they would be a dead letter so far as the remaining thirteen or fourteen are concerned. There is not the smallest probability that the Japanese will take a step involving the abandonment of an important principle, and powerless to produce any good result. So long as our Ministers maintain that no municipal regulations are binding without their sanction, and at the same time admit that the great majority of them are not competent to give that sanction, just so long will the muddle remain hopeless. Writing memorials that ignore the true cause of the complication is mere waste of time. It is hard that busy men should be commissioned to per-

form such a hopeless duty. It is even harder that a respectable community should be indirectly charged with defying laws of which it knows nothing. But these things will never be mended until there is laid the foundation of all Government, the recognition of a governing authority.

MARRIAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The ritual employed at the marriage ceremony in England and elsewhere having no pretensions to supernatural inspiration, its alpha and omega are not protected by anathemas. Consequently its language is sometimes altered; sometimes dispensed with altogether. The latter is the case in the State of New York. There the intervention of a clergyman or magistrate is not needed to make a marriage contract valid. Neither is it essential that some formula should be uttered to express the mutual consent of the parties to the contract. Neither must that consent be attended by any ceremony, or manifested by any particular act or sign. The whole thing is purely a matter of dual volition. "Concurrence in matrimonial intent is all that is required of a man and woman in order to enter into the relation of husband and wife." These are the words of Justice FURGUESON, uttered in the Court-house of New Utrecht a few weeks ago. The occasion which elicited his verdict was a suit brought by Miss ANNIE EVADNE BEGBIE against Mr. JEROME WALTER VAUGHAN. These young people, each aged seventeen, had been married to one another under somewhat novel circumstances.

They met, not for the first time, last July at a "sociable." The entertainment, which was of a mixed nature, began at 9 o'clock in the forenoon. First there was a literary and musical performance; then followed refreshments, and then the party adjourned to the lawn where they tried to play croquet. This amusement does not appear to have suited their mood, for they quickly abandoned it, and received with acclaim a proposal that they should play at getting married. The sport began at once. Among its early incidents was a squabble between Miss ANNIE BEGBIE and another lady for the privilege of being united to Master VAUGHAN. This ended in an amicable compromise by which they were both married to the object of their choice. The ceremony was performed by a youth of twenty, who also married the same young ladies to another gentleman, and was himself united to a third spinster. How many others entered into the matrimonial state the evidence given at the trial did not clearly show, but the only practical consequence of the affair on that occasion was that the newly made husbands jumped over a fence and escaped from their wives. Subsequently Master VAUGHAN paid frequent visits to the house of Miss BEGBIE's brother-in-law where he generally met his bride. On these occasions he never failed to "hug and kiss her." A hammock appears to have been a favorite place for exchanging endearments of this nature, and a not unfrequent witness of them was another young lady of seventeen who watched the proceedings from the vantage ground of another hammock which she shared with another young gentleman. On the whole the trial showed that neither the belles nor the beaux of New Utrecht are of a

prudish nature. Six gentlemen were examined. One was a man of forty whose kissing habits were, therefore, circumscribed, but the other five, judging from their recorded experiences, seemed to think that fondling ladies in hammocks and out of hammocks was a duty not to be neglected in polite society. There was naturally some difficulty in determining how far these attentions were responded to. One witness couldn't tell whether he was kissed back; another thought such affairs were "sort of simultaneous;" and a third was puzzled about the impression left on his mind. The testimony was most concurrent with regard to the relations between the witnesses and the plaintiff. Apart from her supposed husband, four of them confessed that they were on kissing terms with her. And so they remained until, three months after the ceremony at the sociable, the plaintiff's mother invited Master VAUGHAN to pay her a visit. The young gentleman doubtless had some intimation of what was coming, for he took care to be accompanied by three friends. He was told that the affair was more serious than he supposed; that the marriage was legal and binding, and that the only way to set the young lady right was to get separation papers drawn. This simple expedient, a small return, one would imagine, for the many kindnesses he had received at the plaintiff's hands, was not adopted, probably because Mr. VAUGHAN *père* felt so confident that, as he explained himself, "if a copper cent would have settled the affair at the start, he would not have paid it." The case, therefore, came into Court, and gave Justice FURGUESON an opportunity of explaining the marriage laws of the State of New York, as well as of deciding that the dual intention which alone could tie a genuine matrimonial knot was wanting in the instance under examination. The Judge added that "if parents would not neglect the discharge of their parental functions, mock marriages and indiscriminate kissing would not be so frequent." Some persons will be disposed to doubt whether the parents or the laws are more to blame.

THE CHINESE EVASIONISTS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

From a statement recently submitted to the Secretary of the United States Treasury it appears that attempts to defraud the Customs by means of undervalued invoices are made by about twenty-five per cent. of the merchants engaged in the importation of goods from Europe. If this is the result of a protective tariff in the case of Americans themselves, no surprise ought to be felt at a display of similar dishonesty on the part of Chinese who endeavour to evade the provisions of the anti-immigration law.

The devices resorted to by the would-be immigrants are sometimes ingenious and often ludicrous. One plan is based upon the difficulty a white man finds in distinguishing this Chinese from that. An immigrant is provided with a Canton certificate to which his photograph is affixed. Arrived at San Francisco and being admitted to bail pending a final decision as to his right to remain, he seeks out a fellow countryman who wants to revisit the Celestial Empire. Then the one who desires to leave, substitutes his own photograph for that of the one who desires to stay, and when the case comes up for hearing, the former appears in court

instead of the latter, prefers an insufficient plea for rights of residence, and is shipped back to China at the expense of the United States. By this double-barrelled dodge the outgoing AH HOW gets a free passage home, and the incoming AH WHY settles down unmolested. Others depend upon the straightforward plan of swearing the thing that is not. Such was the method adopted by Mr. LING YEN TICK, a gentleman described as "a rough looking, horny handed, coolie, whose clothes did not indicate anything better than a wharf rat or a vegetable digger," but who, nevertheless kept a Federal Judge, a District Attorney and certain other Court officials, engaged during the best part of a day investigating his private history. Mr. TICK averred that he owned a \$500 interest in a store in San Francisco, and that he had journeyed to America to become an active partner. In support of the allegation he called several witnesses, who declared that the interest originally belonged to TICK Senior, and that it had been transferred to TICK Junior on the former's decease. The Judge asked for documentary evidence, and after an adjournment for dinner the TICK faction produced an account-book, on the fly leaf of which was an entry saying that TICK Junior had an interest in the firm. This seems to have been an oversight on the part of the Chinese, for the account-book was six years old, and TICK Senior's decease only dated back a few months. The faction rose stoutly to the occasion, however. They swore blandly that TICK Senior's interest had never been recorded, but that TICK Junior's had. The Court then, having the account books at hand, proceeded to examine them, and found that during the first year of business the receipts from all sources were about \$300 per month, whereas, before dinner, the head partner had sworn that they were \$20,000 per annum. Confronted by this discrepancy, the faction said, with unruffled composure, that all things must have a beginning. The baffled Court now went on another tack. Entries of profits remitted to the TICK partner in China were asked for. Again the Chinese were equal to the occasion. There never had been any profits, they said. To their great regret the expenses had swallowed up everything. Questioned still further, they averred that their outgoings had always been the same—\$20,000 per annum—and that when they commenced business they had a capital of only \$3,500. Thus in the first year they appeared to have spent all their capital and made a deficit of \$13,900. The Judge exulted. He thought the faction must weaken under such a hard piece of logic as that. But the hope was deceptive. The head partner politely explained that he had made up the deficit out of commissions on the sale of garden truck coming from a manure-heap in which he had an interest. Manifestly the Court could not go into the manure-heap, so it fell back on TICK Junior. That worthy, being shown the account-book with the names of the partners, said that he recognized three of them as his relations. Once more the Court exulted, for TICK, when questioned by the Custom-house officers on board ship, had been unable to name any of the partners. But when everybody looked to see TICK confounded, he explained complacently that he had been sea-sick and unable to use his memory. And this though the ship had been three days in the dock before TICK was confronted by the Custom-house folks. Finally, the case was re-

manded, and other "evasionists" came on. One of them, inspired, perhaps, by TICK's example, professed himself a trader, but said that he, too, had been too sea-sick to remember the fact when first questioned. Another averred that, out of a possible total of \$156, he had saved \$250, and with it bought a seventh-share in a drug store in which a capital of \$4,800 was invested. He also could not recall the names of any of the partners in the store where his six years' savings were placed, and he also, under the influence of sea-sickness, had said he was to be, not a partner, but a book-keeper. These discrepancies between statements made on board ship and those sworn to in Court may perhaps be referred to the promptings of a Chinese circular said to have been published for the benefit of new comers. It is translated as follows:—

On her last trip the *Oceanic* brought over a number of passengers, a majority of whom are ashore, out on bail. It will not be a great many days before their cases will be regularly called for trial. There is a law prohibiting the coming of Chinese laborers. It is not only the Chinese who are not thoroughly acquainted with the above, but even the lawyers do not seem to comprehend it. The following hints are for the information of those whom those cases concern, particularly those who are passengers. They ought to understand the above so that there may be no disappointment:

First—If a laborer, "he must have returned to China after November 17, 1880 (Kwong Su, tenth month, fifteen day), and before May 6, 1882 (Kwong Su, eighth year, third month, twentieth day)." Then he can return to this country.

Second—If a young, intelligent person, coming to this country to go to school, he can land without any difficulty, but then he must never mention a word of learning how to work, etc.

Third—In the case of merchants, whether new-comers or old residents, they can also be landed without any difficulty, but then they must have some evidence prepared in the form of a paper, showing interest in some store, account-book, or money brought over. These facts must be all clearly stated and then all will be right. Those passengers who have been examined already by the Custom House, whose testimonies do not correspond with the above, who have signed their names to the paper (meaning the Custom House records), will say they had heard a great deal of what the interpreter said was not understood by the Chinese, and that a great deal of the numerous dialects was not understood by the interpreter. When these Chinese come into Court and their testimony does not agree with that given to the Custom House officials, the fault then must lie with the interpreter, in that he did not understand clearly what he heard. When they come to Court they need not be afraid to relate, clearly and straight to the Judge's face, that they do not understand the Canton dialect, and this will prevent disappointments.

We incline to the opinion that this circular rather injures the anti-Chinese case. That it should have been issued at all is unlikely enough, but that it should have been translated and given to the newspapers is almost incredible. Taken in conjunction with the evidence elicited in Court, it has inspired some tolerably strong journalistic utterances. The Chinese are declared to be "just as inveterate liars to-day as they were in the age of Confucius." What evidence there is to prove their disregard for veracity in the times of that sage, we are not told. It is enough that, according to a San Francisco journal, "they lie for friendship, for gain, and for pure love of lying." Possibly they might seem less mendacious in the eyes of men who did not think it a duty "to preserve America for its people and their posterity, and to protect the American laborer from a competition degrading in character and ruinous to his hopes of material and social advancement." However this may be, the tailed immigrant is in exceedingly bad odour just now beyond the Pacific. Great ingenuity is exercised to show that even his occa-

sional virtues are an evil trait. "The very frequency and persistency of the vice of lying," we are told, "force on a few men who are in business the necessity of keeping their word good, for otherwise they would be unable to make contracts. Where ninety-nine out of a hundred are liars, the business value of a reputation for truthfulness is higher than among a people who are habitually truthful. This is the whole explanation of the exceptional truthfulness of occasional Chinese." As a way of reconciling a perplexing inconsistency, this is quite the most convincing thing we have seen for a long time. The Chinaman, in short, is so bad that the necessity of being good under certain circumstances is borne in upon him with exceptional force; and when he is good he appreciates the value of the thing so much that he is uncommonly good. Further, truth is such a rare thing among people of his race, that it is far more esteemed than in countries where lying is less common. This method of reasoning in parts a new aspect to the character of nations which have the credit of setting a higher price than their neighbours upon virtue and probity. The inference is that vice and dishonesty are proportionately prevalent among them.

But what a pitiable business the whole thing seems. What a parody on Western civilization are these Courts of Judges and Attorneys busied, day after day, with investigations into the biographies and private affairs of Chinese hucksters, petty traders, and travellers, who may not live an hour in, "the land of freedom" without having previously undergone a rigorous official catechism, and proved that their industry and frugality are not to enter into competition with the insolent slothfulness of uneducated truculent boors from Ireland and elsewhere. And what a contrast does the orderly, hard working life of the much-abused Chinaman present to the noisy indolent ways of the Fenian agitator, honored citizen of the Great Republic, who openly plots assassinations and revels in riot and treason. At some not very distant day Americans will want to tear this page out of their national history.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our Correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

A FRIEND IN NEED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The latest performances of a certain Yokohama journalist in the ill-fitting rôle of "guide, philosopher, and friend" to the Japanese Government, recall the days when his earlier efforts in that disguise used to excite alternately the amazement, the consternation, the bewilderment, and the horror of English-speaking officials in Tokio. That was a period when obnoxious intruders were to some extent held at bay by the difficulty of communication between the Capital and this Settlement, but it was never found that the obstacles which deterred the majority had the slightest restraining effect upon the editorial pest of whom I speak. Steamboats might blow up, stage coaches might break down, but such risks were always willingly encountered by this individual, who came gradually to be likened to Mrs. Micawber, in her determination not to desert the object of her fond devotion. I well remember the eagerness with which the attachés of a Department then situated near Tsukiji flew to inspect the list of killed by the explosion of the little boat commanded by poor Crowninshield;

and their expression of fatalistic resignation when it was ascertained that nothing resembling the *kata-kana* equivalent of the too familiar name could be found therein. I speak particularly of the list of "killed," because, even at that epoch, a gloomy conviction pervaded the department officials that nothing short of sudden death could free them from their incubus. A theory, weakly held by a few over sanguine optimists, to the effect that hopes might be cherished from the tendency of violent casualties to result in lock-jaw, was promptly suppressed by the larger number, who knew that their tormentor's resources were by no means limited to his lingual capabilities. I remember, furthermore, how each recurring overflow of the Rokugo River, at Kawasaki,—then a frequent event, though now almost unknown—was hailed with a satisfaction not usually evoked by a public mishap, solely because the chances of the unwelcome visitation were to that extent diminished. When the railway was first contemplated, it became a question of some gravity, in the precincts of *Kasumi-ga-seki* at least, whether the advantages of that enterprise would really compensate for the dire opportunities it would offer to the one dreaded foreigner. Then it was, or shortly after, that the reports of illness among the members of the Guwai Mu Sho staff began to be observed in such alarming repetition. During a number of months, it was noticed that, after each editorial pilgrimage to Tokio, a paragraph would appear announcing the serious indisposition, and consequent strict seclusion, of almost every officer or attaché who understood English. A little later, the hitherto unexplained fancy of prominent public servants to possess two or more private residences, in widely different parts of the city, commenced to manifest itself. The plea of sickness and confinement to their homes had not proved as efficacious as was anticipated, and it became convenient, in the event of objectionable calls, to be able to say that the *danna-san* was just now occupying some one of his other houses—perhaps at Asabu, possibly at Shinagawa, or it might be in Honjio. The apprehensions as to the railway were not, indeed, justified; its baleful facilities being counteracted by the admonitory properties of the telegraph. Whenever it was known that the object of official, terror was among the passengers from Yokohama, an excited and feverish tapping, like that of Poe's raven, would set in at most of the Departments, and especially at the one occupying the Kuroda estate, the consequences of which would generally be, first, a "hurrying to and fro" not unworthy of comparison with that of the ante-Waterloo revellers in Belgium's capital, and next, a half holiday all round. Many of the personal changes in the Guwai Mu Sho, ten years ago, were undoubtedly attributable to causes of which the community had no accurate conception. The memorable retirement of an eminent statesman was probably not due, as suspected at the time, to a dispute with his colleagues, but to the wear and tear of a nervous organization, subjected to incessant trituration by a bore from whom no means of escape could be devised. The transfer of several rising diplomatists, in rapid succession, from congenial posts in their chosen Office to the Finance, Law, or other Departments, was a source of wonder to those who were unacquainted with the dreadful penalty under which the original positions were held. *Daijos* begged on their knees to be sent upon missions to Europe and America. The organization of an intricate branch of the national service was understood to be undergoing gradual derangement from the inroads of a visitant more dreaded than the cholera or small-pox. But the invader, like Shakespeare's hero, was not to be awed from the career of his humour. Imitating the perseverance of a namesake famous in song, he simply stated—

"Men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever."

Finally, it is said, the expedient was adopted of summoning home from abroad the most dexterous and ingenious of Japan's younger diplomatists, to

cope with the evil. It was thought necessary that a decisive step be taken. A panic was feared. Ghastly forebodings that the suffering Department would become paralysed, or atrophied, were floating in the air. It was time to test the skill of the nimble-witted and most imaginative of its agents. Arriving here, he was presently installed in a station of flattering prominence, and instructed as to the task before him. His conduct at that trying moment won him the undivided respect of his associates and the gratitude of his superiors. Confronted with a duty inexpressibly distasteful, he assented with the promptness of a soldier detailed for a forlorn hope. In the secret bosom of his family he was sometimes seen to wince. In the broad body of society his heroic calm never deserted him. History contains no nobler example of self-sacrifice at the command of patriotic abnegation.

And did he succeed? So I am given to understand, although I cannot vouch for the unimpeachable accuracy of such records as have been revealed to me. At any rate, the burden was thereafter borne by him alone. It is even alleged that he made light of it, and assumed an air of surprise that the proper treatment had not before been discovered. But this is not an uncommon device, to heighten the effect of brilliant achievement. He was often heard to say that beyond auricular blight and impotence he had little to fear. To listen—or affect to listen,—that was the only cruel hardship of his lot. Discussion, argument, persuasion,—these he contrived to set aside from the beginning. For this keen-sighted attaché at once detected that his visitor's purpose was not so much to discover and set forth the actual needs of Japan, as to find out the inclinations, the prejudices, the passing fancies of the individuals in power, and to formulate them in such ponderous English as should, in the writer's estimation, impose a dead weight of conviction upon every hearer or reader. To get at what the Government wanted, and then to convince the Government that the only sure way to attain their end was to enlist his coöperation as adviser, promulgator, editorial champion, or whatever—that (if I may use a vulgar expression for so exalted a project)—that was the little game in hand. From the moment of this disclosure, our young diplomatist's labours are believed to have been easy—excepting, always, the discomfort of having to sit like a bucket, day after day, and be pumped into. The fundamental principles of the editorial guardian-angel turned out akin to those of the Hibernian candidate who, having expounded his platform, proceeded to remark,—“These, fellow-citizens, are my fixed convictions, but if they do not suit you, they can be altered.” And so it came to pass that one of the most diverting series of dissolving views ever set in operation was exhibited in the columns of a Yokohama journal. Of course I do not speak from my own knowledge, and am open to correction in case of need; but the *ben trovato* tale runs that the able editor was induced from day to day to modify and reconstruct the doctrines previously asserted, until, at the end of a month or six weeks, his paper was proclaiming the exact opposite of what it had undertaken to demonstrate at the beginning. Nothing is more delightful than to listen to the lively descriptions of occurrences at that period, from the lips of those who were empowered by proximity and the thinness of *Shoji* to hear what passed between the native official and Japan's only true foreign friend. The course of the genial colloquy would thus run smooth:—

“Excellent, admirable! Nothing more true. Now I wonder how any person can see so exactly what our country needs, and can put it so perfectly into just the necessary language; so compact, so eloquent! It is a wonder!”

“Oh, no; not at all, not at all. You see,—well, practice, perhaps, and—ah,—habits of investigation; yes, experience goes a great way. Now, if you cared to hear, I could tell you,”—and so forth,

and so forth, mumble, mumble, for something like half an hour.

“Yes, very wonderful! I don't see how any body could present it in so grand a form. It is perfect, Perfect is the only word. I only wish—I only wish—

“Well, what?”

“I only wish that all the members of our Government would look at these matters in the same way. But sometimes, you know —,”

“Yes, oh yes, naturally. Let me tell you. When I was Minister of ———, in ———,”

“What? I beg your pardon. Were you ever Minister of ——— in ———?” [He has heard the same thing a dozen times, but finds he can always make a point by expressing admiring surprise.]

“Oh, certainly; it's a well known fact. I held that responsible office for nearly a week. The parties, you know —”

“But, excuse me, this is very interesting. I must make a note. So, you were Minister of ——— in ———. What was the date? My Government will be greatly concerned to know this. Pardon me for interrupting you. Then it is true that other Governments besides the Japanese do not always agree on delicate points.

“Why, bless you, of course not.” [Here a thumb is poised, as if meditating interjection between two Japanese ribs; from which familiarity the Oriental anatomy recoils in ill-concealed loathing.] “To be sure. I once made a speech nine hours long, and had to change my whole political position five times in the course of it, because I could see my colleagues didn't altogether agree, don't you see?”

“Ah! Very few could do that so discreetly, I dare say.”

“Oh, I don't say that; not quite that; but—well—I confess that my particular training may have given me a faculty of shifting—that is—ah—of gliding,—let us say *gliding*, you know.”—[Again a stammering monologue of fifteen minutes.]

“Then, perhaps, with your peculiar tact, you would not mind altering one slight point,—just ‘gliding,’ I think you said.”

“Yes, ‘gliding,’ would be the parliamentary way of putting it.”

“Would you kindly ‘glide,’ then”—etc., etc.

The result, I am informed, always was that a certain deviation, as of a point in the compass, was effected with each interview; with the ultimate consequence that the wind which blew due North at the beginning of a month had “glided” so as to blow due South at the close. This feat accomplished, a climax of exquisite humour would be brought about. The first and the last article of the series would be solemnly presented to the writer, with an assurance that nothing was now required but to compose a national constitution for Japan, in which the the admirable ideas of the two effusions should be carefully wrought together. That done, the empire would be safe. But as that could not be done, by any process of “gliding” known to literature; and as the devoted friend of Japan was constrained to admit that the effort was too much even for an ex-Minister of ———, in ———, the equable young diplomatist invariably cut the knot of difficulty by saying, with imperturbable good humour,—“Very well; let us begin again.” And so the entire operation would be repeated, without awakening a touch of suspicion on the part of the deluded dupe. But of course this could not last forever. No amount of vanity and conceit, however cunningly tickled, could perpetually blind their possessor to the fact that he had been trifled with and rendered utterly ridiculous, not only in the sight of the Japanese, but in his own as well. How the catastrophe came about, I may at some future time relate. It is too good a story to be impaired by hasty narration. It is sufficient to say that the officers of the Government, high and low, were relieved, for years if not forever, from the offensive personal intrusions of this disinterested applicant for the post of Mentor. From that date, friendly advice and fraternal

counsel were at an end. Sweeping denunciation and blind hatred became the order of each day. I am given to believe that for several successive years, the pages of the Yokohama newspaper concerned in the proceedings were rarely free from abuse and defamation of everything Japanese. The annihilation of Japan's independence was advocated, and the theory that the country would be benefited by being placed under British rule was openly advanced. Whether this candid attitude of hostility was more, or less, satisfactory to its objects than the previous pretence of big-hearted amity, we need not inquire; but it was considered a settled fact that no renewal of the exploded "confidence game" need be feared. Time, however, works strange changes; and we are now diverted once more by the spectacle of the unreformed hypocrite coming forward in his stale character and proffering patent panaceas of his invention, for all the serious evils and embarrassments under which this country continues to labour. The reasons of his return to a field of endeavour in which he signally failed before, and the methods which he now employs, are not unworthy of a brief examination; and if I may, at another time, be granted the requisite space, I will attempt to bestow upon them a little of the attention which they merit.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

GOOD MEMORY.

Yokohama, 19th February, 1884.

SHORT WEIGHT COALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I wish to call the attention of foreign residents in Tokiyo to the fact that, to my knowledge two established native dealers in coal not only deceive their customers with short weight, but make matters worse by bringing with them, when delivering coal, false weighing machines—one of them a Japanese machine marking *kuwamme*, the other a foreign machine marking pounds avoirdupois. A number of piculs brought to me showed great uniformity in weighing 133 lbs. on the dealer's weighing machine, a short weight of 3 lbs., and not, therefore, very important. I then had them weighed on a stamped *hakari*, and found each to mark 11.3 *kuwamme* instead of 16.0 *kuwamme*, that is 92 lbs. instead of 133 lbs. The dealer admitted his defaulting, and altered his delivery note to the correct weight, and received money in accordance with it. I have not kept particulars of the false *hakari* brought by the other dealer.

The use of false weights and measures is punishable in Japanese law, but probably very few persons would undertake the task of reporting the culprit to the authorities.

It is desirable, however, not only for their pocket's sake, but for the cause of commercial honesty among Japanese that coal consumers should take steps as I have done to defeat gross attempts at cheating.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

N.

Tokiyo, February 18th, 1884.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I should like to add a few words to the letter in your issue of to-day headed "Short Weight Coals." A statement of the two methods of fraud which I have detected may help to put other purchasers on their guard. In one case, when a foreign platform machine was used, I noticed that the man who weighed the coals always stood very close to the machine, and at last I found out that he put his foot under the platform each time and pressed the works underneath. In the other case when an ordinary Japanese *hakari* was brought, on my producing a small *hakari* of my own for comparison, the seller thought it well to take his away and bring another—a correct one I presume—and the coal which he had brought as a ton was found, when weighed with this, to be just three-

quarters of a ton, and he received in consequence some two *yen* less than he had expected. I did report this case to the police, but do not know whether they took any action in the matter. In the case of a Japanese *hakari*, the beam and the weight should be carefully examined to see whether the letters or marks on each correspond; otherwise you cannot tell that the coals are not being weighed with a weight belonging to a lighter *hakari*. We have, in fact, in this place to take these precautions:—1. See that the coals correspond to sample, so that you do not get *Chikugo* when you have ordered *Karatsu*. 2. Test the scales: this can be done even with a few pounds weighed on small house scales. 3. Watch the manner of weighing.

It would pay a community like the one in Tsukiji to have a weighing machine of their own for common use.

Yours, &c.,

M.

Tsukiji, February 21st, 1884.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE YOKOHAMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce was held at their rooms yesterday afternoon, when the following members were present viz:—J. A. Fraser (Chairman) J. Dodds, I. Lindsley, E. Flint Kilby, A. J. Wilkin, A. O. Gay, W. B. Walter, A. Wolff, Tom Thomas, J. T. Griffin, A. C. Read, J. Bissett, H. Gribble, C. H. Dallas, F. Grosser, Aug. Evers, J. M. des Pallières, and others.

The CHAIRMAN said that, this being the annual meeting of the Chamber, the first formal business was to read the notice convening the meeting (read); the next business was to pass the minutes of the last annual meeting and of the special meetings of the 17th April and 18th December. He hoped some member would propose that they be passed.

Mr. WILKIN made the proposition, which was carried.

Mr. LINDSLEY then proposed that the accounts and report of the Committee as printed be taken as read.

Mr. W. B. WALTER seconded the proposition, which was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said that they now passed to a consideration of the various headings of the report of the Committee, the first of which was Treaty and Tariff Revision. They were unable to give any more information than appeared in the report as they had not received any communications on the subject. The views of the Chamber had been fully set forth in various communications with the Foreign Ministers in Tokiyo, and it was most probable that there remained very little more to say on the subject. It was also probable that a settlement would be arrived at before long, perhaps during the present year, and it was to be hoped that it would be one that would be honourable on all sides and at the same time carry no injustice to the interests of foreign merchants in Japan.

Mr. A. J. WILKIN then rose and said—I think that this subject should scarcely pass without some expression from the Chamber on that point, upon which a good deal is now being said, viz., the abolition or partial abolition of extraterritoriality jurisdiction. We are all, I trust, desirous that no injustice should be done to Japan, nor do we wish that any selfish or sentimental consideration should influence our judgment in respect to this question. By all means, let Japan have her sovereign rights, at the same time let it not be overlooked that others have rights as well as Japan. If I mistake not, there is a good deal of misrepresentation or at least a keeping back of the truth on the subject. Parties who have little practical knowledge of it, or who are interested,

picture a slate of things which carries the idea of oppression on the part of the stronger nations. Now I hazard the assertion that practically there is very little of serious fiction in the present machinery of the relations with foreign powers. There may be a certain amount of feeling of injured pride, but I verily believe, speaking with all diffidence, that this owes its origin to a great extent to some of Japan's foreign advocates or advisers. No doubt, more especially in later years, Japan has many among these both able and worthy, but it is not so in all cases, and there are some on whose assistance she is not to be congratulated. But I presume the boldest of them would not venture to say that twenty years ago it was possible that any jurisdiction over aliens could have been conceded to this country; or say even 10 years ago, or even 5,—or let us come down even to three. The want of any written law; the utter dissimilarity of thought and feeling; the despotic method of treatment by one class of another; the prevalence of torture; a code of morality of a unique pattern; all these combined to set at nought any notion of the kind. But within the last year or two, or two or three years, a written code has been formed, and it is understood that it is to some extent working. But surely it will be only decent that at least we should see a little how it works before we are intrusted to its care. It is no great matter to write out a code, but a very different thing to administer it, and especially when for generations all habits of thought and idea have been in different grooves. Let us just illustrate by some examples the position of a Japanese towards the law and the position a foreigner would find himself in under that law. Is there any *habeas corpus*? Is it not still the case that a man can be thrown into prison on a mere suspicion, and kept there for weeks without trial? I know for a fact that comparatively recently this has been done. Shall I be liable to be brow-beaten by a policeman if I walk on the bund without a lantern, even under the gas lamps; a small matter, but the representative of a good deal. Or take a more serious question; the marriage law, or rather marriage customs of the country, for I suppose there are no marriage laws. Is a foreigner to have the power, or the privilege of being able to tell his wife she may go—he does not want her any more? These are aspects in which the subject should be considered, and there is another point, a delicate matter which I wish to allude to only in a proper spirit; the state religion of Japan is a paganism of a very primitive type, containing, as far as I know, no code of morality worthy of the name. People at home should know precisely how and where their people stand in relation to extraterritoriality jurisdiction, and it must take a generation at any rate before a state of thought and feeling can be developed here, which shall place this country in consonance with the platform of the West. Then, as to opening the country, which we hear of as something as a *quid pro quo* for the surrender of alien privileges; let there be no mistake on this point. I do not believe that it will have any material effect in increasing the opportunities of foreigners to do business. Indirectly and gradually it will foster business, and it will at once obviate a good many annoyances, but the benefit will assuredly be more for Japan than for the foreigner. While on the other hand, I cannot understand how this country can aspire to be considered enlightened and civilized, while it closes the land in this fashion—a relic of the darker ages. There is no country in the world besides which adopts this course. The plea that it might lead to trouble without full jurisdiction breaks down under the result of actual experience. I believe I am right in saying that during the few years in which the passport system—an enlightened step in advance—has been working, that by the British Legation alone several thousand, say 7,000, passports have been obtained, and in no single instance is there the record of any serious trouble with any of the holders. I am

very anxious that these remarks should not be misunderstood. I do not wish to make them in any carping spirit, but, on the other hand, it seems time to make some counter-statements to those which are circulated freely at the present time.

The CHAIRMAN after thanking Mr. Wilkin for his remarks said the next item was the Korean treaty. When this had last been brought to the notice of the Chamber they had commented in very unfavourable terms on the treaty made by Admiral Wiles. He believed that it was through the representations made by the Chambers of Commerce in Shanghai, Hongkong, and here, that it had not been ratified, and was glad to say that the treaty as concluded by Sir H. Parkes was much more satisfactory. Speaking of the Kerosene Regulations, he said that he congratulated the members on the fact that they had been rescinded, and the promise of the Government that if new ones were enacted due notice would be given before they came into operation. Referring to the Postal Contract, they had appealed to the Home Government to continue the subsidy to the line between here and Hongkong, which appeal had been refused. It cost the Government £12,000 per annum, and they did not think it a necessary expense. He was glad to say that the delivery as conducted now by outside boats was as regular as by the French Mail.

Mr. WILKIN said there was some acknowledgement due to Mr. Rickett for signaling the mails, although they came by outside steamers. It was a great convenience, and he would suggest that the Committee ask Mr. Center, the Agent of the P.M. and O. & O. Companies to fire a gun when their steamers arrived.

The CHAIRMAN said he would note the suggestion and leave it to be dealt with by the new Committee. The Chairman, resuming, said the next question was Drawbacks and Bonded Warehouses. The views of the Chamber were forwarded to the Foreign Representatives in Tokyo through the Doyen of that body in March last, in which they particularly pressed the matter of drawbacks. If it came to a question of only receiving one concession, he was not sure but that the Bonded Warehouse scheme would not be the more advantageous.

Mr. W. B. WALTER thought that the tariff question would come up for consideration during the current year, at least, and then they would have an opportunity of discussing the whole question.

Mr. WILKIN remarked that the proposed increase in duties was a very serious matter. A proposition had been made some time ago about Bonded Warehouses in the Settlement which was well worthy of being kept in view.

The CHAIRMAN then passed on to the scale of charges, which he said had been drawn up and adopted by a special committee in April last. Referring to Hatoba accommodation, principally for metals, he was given to understand that the Superintendent of Customs had not put aside a portion of the sheds and had them floored, as promised; but perhaps we expected these things to be done too quickly.

Mr. KILBY said that the Hatoba was in no better state than before. During the last fall of snow a steamer landed its cargo and no men were employed to clear away the snow; the sheds were leaky, and merchants suffered heavy losses from the damage occasioned.

Mr. WALTER remarked that the Hatoba accommodation was insufficient for the trade of the port. It was the same now as 10 years ago when the trade was smaller. He thought the Chamber should address the Superintendent of Customs on the subject, and, failing that, apply to the Ministers.

The CHAIRMAN said he had had two interviews with the Superintendent of Customs on the subject and had received plenty of promises. He would suggest that a special committee be appointed to push the matter.

Mr. LINDSEY suggested that cargo might be landed here as at Shanghai, that is at other places

than the Hatoba, under special permits. It had been done here, but the fees were too heavy, viz., \$5.00 per diem. He would propose that the incoming committee be asked to look into the matter and see if some arrangement could not be made.

The CHAIRMAN, resuming, said there was nothing special to say about the Tea Telegram. The first was sent on the 22nd December, and there was a proposal to get an outward telegram from New York. The Finances had been fully considered in November and December last, and therefore there was very little to be said on the subject now. He would take this opportunity of mentioning that the Secretary's salary had been reduced to \$150.00. This was done after drawing up the report, and therefore did not appear in it. Mr. Dinsdale had kindly waived his right to two months' notice of the reduction. This would make the question of finances easier for the new committee.

Mr. WILKIN remarked that the increase in the price of the Circular, instead of increasing the receipts from this source had caused them to fall off 14 per cent. He moved that the incoming committee consider at the first opportunity the advisability of reducing the price of the Circular.

Mr. THOMAS seconded the motion.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that if the few firms who now held aloof from the Chamber, and there were only a few, would join, it might be said to be a thoroughly representative body. There was nothing to say about the State of Trade as it referred to a time that was past, but since the report was drawn up things had assumed a brighter aspect. As to Railways, it was to be desired that they should be built as economically as was consistent with good work. They would confer great benefits on the people of the country and this would naturally stimulate foreign trade. He would ask for a motion that the statement of accounts and report be adopted, printed, and circulated as usual.

This was proposed by Mr. DODDS, seconded by Mr. READ, and carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE YEAR 1883.

In framing a report of the proceedings of this Chamber for the past year, it is not necessary to assign to the question of Treaty Revision the prominent position which it has occupied in the Reports of the two preceding years. Not that the question has lost any of its importance or interest, but, because, so far as this Chamber is concerned, the year 1883 has passed away without the necessity of any further action on its part.

REVISED TARIFF.

As regards the Revised Tariff on which it is supposed an understanding had been arrived at, last year, between the Japanese Government and the Foreign Representatives, and which had thereafter been remitted to the various Home Governments for their approval and confirmation, it might have been expected, remembering the eagerness displayed at one time by the Government of this country on the question, that ere now a date would have been fixed, or at least indicated, for the coming into operation of the new scale of duties, devised with the intent of providing this country with an increased revenue, but apparently fresh and unforeseen obstacles have interposed to hinder this result.

What the precise nature of these points of difference is, Your Committee is unable to state, but it is supposed that they have reference to the question of the duration of the Revised Tariff, and to the manner of its determination on the expiry of whatever period may be agreed on during which it shall be in force.

Apart then from the broader question of Treaty Revision, about which so much continues to be written in the native and foreign press, and so many conflicting opinions are constantly being expressed, Your Committee is not in possession of any information of a more definite character on the subject of the Revised Tariff.

KOREAN TREATY.

Passing from the question of Treaty Revision in Japan, Your Committee arrives at a reference to the treaties with Korea concluded by the Representatives of Great Britain and Germany on the 26th November last, the former intended to replace the convention negotiated by Vice-Admiral Wiles in 1882, and referred to in the Chamber's Report for that year. Through the courtesy of H.B.M.'s Representative at the Court of Peking, this Chamber was afforded an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the merits of the new Treaty, and Your Committee, in a despatch to Earl Granville, dated 8th instant, took occasion to commend the provisions of the new Convention, and to express the hope that its ratification might shortly be accomplished. (Appendix A.)

KEROSENE REGULATIONS.

In the month of February last, a new set of Regulations was promulgated by the Government, to come into force on the 1st of July, 1883. As the effect of these Regulations would have been seriously detrimental to the interests of all concerned in this important trade, a communication was addressed by Your Committee, on the 23rd February, to the Doyen of the Foreign Representatives in Tokyo, pointing out the injustice of altering the Standard of Kerosene to be

imported into this country, without giving ample and sufficient notice of such proposed change.

The effect of the Chamber's directing attention to this matter, was to procure a rescinding of the New Regulations, and further to obtain from the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, an assurance that no alteration of the Standard of Kerosene would be decreed, without ample notice being given to foreign merchants engaged in the trade. (Appendix B.)

POSTAL CONTRACT.

In furtherance of the resolution carried at the last Annual General Meeting, a communication was addressed in March last to H.E. Sir Harry Parkes, requesting his co-operation in a fresh effort to induce the Home Government to consent to a renewal of the Branch Service by British Packets between Hongkong and this port.

In the month of August, H.E. informed the Chamber that he had received a reply from the Earl Granville, stating, that H.M.'s Postmaster-General, to whom the matter had been referred, saw no reason to recommend a reversal of the adverse decision previously taken by the Lords of the Treasury in this matter. (Appendix C.)

DRAWBACKS AND BONDED WAREHOUSES.

The resolutions on these subjects, passed at last Annual General Meeting, were duly communicated to the Foreign Representatives in Tokyo, in a communication dated 28th March, and addressed to the Doyen of that body. (Appendix D.)

SCALE OF COMMISSIONS AND CHARGES.

A Special Committee, consisting of Messrs. W. B. Walter, Gay, Wolff, Evers, and Thomas, was duly elected, in terms of the resolution carried at last Annual General Meeting, and a revised scale was drawn up by these gentlemen. At a Special General Meeting of the Chamber, called in April last to consider the proposed scale, its adoption was agreed to, with some slight alteration in the Fire Insurance scale. Members were supplied at the time with copies of the new scale as adopted, but it will also appear in the annual pamphlet. (Appendix E.)

HATOBA ACCOMMODATION FOR METALS.

In May last the Chamber addressed a letter to the Superintendent of Customs, at the request of the Foreign Merchants and others interested in the trade, complaining of the insufficient accommodation for metals at the Hatoba, whereby serious damage was often caused, to iron more especially, in the process of landing and sorting cargo. After some delay, a reply was received from the Superintendent, promising to pave and set apart a portion of the existing sheds for metals only. (Appendix F.)

FINANCES.

The financial position of the Chamber has been the cause of some anxiety to Your Committee during the past year, it was found necessary to hold two Special Meetings, to consider the all-important subject of ways and means. The proceedings at these meetings were duly printed and circulated for the information of members, and Your Committee hope that the measures adopted may result in placing the Chamber's finances on a sound footing. (Appendix G.)

ACCOUNTS.

A statement of accounts for the past year, duly audited, is appended, and shows a credit balance of \$439.33, against \$713.98 at the close of 1882.

MEMBERS.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that the Chamber's list of Members for the current year amounts to 58, as against 59 for 1883.

DANGERS IN THE SUNDA STRAITS.

A circular was received in October last from the Secretary of the Batavia Exchange, having reference to dangers to navigation in the Straits of Sunda, arising from the recent volcanic disturbances, and offering to take charge of letters and telegrams for vessels expected at Anjer.

Your Committee, considering the matter one of general public interest, forwarded the Circular to the local press for publication.

TEA TELEGRAM.

A request having been made by the recently established "Importers' and Grocers' Exchange of New York" that this Chamber would undertake the construction and despatch, after the departure of each American mail, of a Telegram about Japan Tea, averaged from information to be furnished by various firms engaged in the trade, your Committee decided to sanction the Chamber's undertaking the work on certain conditions, which have been duly communicated to the Committee of the Exchange.

As a commencement, a telegram was despatched on the 22nd instant, after the departure of the *Arabie*. All expenses in connection with the message are to be defrayed by the New York Exchange.

STATE OF TRADE.

Under this heading it is difficult for Your Committee to make reference to the past year in more cheering terms than those applied to its immediate predecessors. The Import Trade, as a reference to the Chamber's Statistics will prove, shows an estimated falling off in value of nearly 2½ millions of dollars, compared with 1882, and running the eye down the list of Imports, it is noticeable that this falling off has not alone affected the principal articles of staple use, but that, with few exceptions, all imported goods give evidence of a diminished sale, and of a lower average value.

Turning to Exports, it is apparent that the quantity of Tea shipped in 1883 differs but slightly from total of 1882, but the average cost has been somewhat less. Notwithstanding this advantage to buyers, it is to be feared that for the most, if not to all engaged in the trade, the past season has been one of disappointment, for against the more moderate cost on this side has to be placed the decline in American markets, culminating in a low range of prices. Happily, indications are no longer wanting that a reaction has set in, and that a considerable improvement has taken place in New York, since the beginning of the current year.

As regards Silk, the figures of export for 1883 are the largest on record, and a lower average cost than in 1882 has to be noted, but here, too, it is open to question whether the result of operations in the article has so far proved profitable to shippers. These remarks would be incomplete without a reference to the large increase (due possibly to somewhat exceptional causes) in direct shipments on native account, and also to the reappearance, in quantity, of what may be termed "Taysam" sorts, their presence on this market affording proof of the asserted depression and inactivity of the native manufacturing industry.

A further reference to the Chamber's figures shows a difference in the total value of exports, (in favor of 1882 as compared with 1883) of about 14 millions of dollars, notwithstanding the remarkable increase in last year's Silk shipments; but comparing the estimated totals of the Import and Export trade for 1883, we find that the latter exceeded the former by the large sum of close on 9 millions of dollars.

RAILWAYS.

This report may fittingly be closed with a brief reference to the work of Railway construction, which the past year has witnessed in this country, as well as to the schemes for a further extension of the system, which are in contemplation.

Public Works of this nature, if carefully and judiciously carried out, cannot fail to be of great benefit to Japan, in opening up and developing the country, and it would seem not unreasonable to hope that their ultimate effect, in conjunction with the increased facilities for coast transport afforded by the numerous additions to Japan's Mercantile Marine, may be to give an impetus to the trade and commerce of the country, which shall be of benefit to native and foreign merchants alike.

J. A. FRASER, Chairman.

January, 1884.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1883.

RECEIPTS.	
To Balance from 1882	\$ 713.98
Members' Annual Subscriptions	\$9 @ \$85 1,475.00
Additional payments by Members	\$9 @ \$10 90.00
	3,035.00
Circulars sold:—To members	11,798 @ 10 cts 1,179.80
Circulars sold:—To non-members	3,692 @ 12½ cts 461.50
	15,490
Circulars supplied to non-members	236.16
	1,877.46
Half yearly Statistics sold:—To members	683 @ 10 cts 68.30
Statistics sold:—To non-members	60 @ 20 cts 12.00
	80.30
Reports, &c., sold to members	12.39
Sample Japanese Bank note, returned by H.E. Sir H. S. Parkes	10.00
Interest allowed by H. & S. Bank on current account	18.51
	\$4,745.55
EXPENDITURE.	
Rent	\$ 480.00
Secretary's Salary	2,100.00
Wages for Chinese assistant and office boys	475.00
Printing Circulars and half-yearly Statistics	647.78
General printing, advertising, and subscriptions to local newspapers	240.00
Returns of imports and exports, deliveries, and sales	147.83
Furniture and Stationery	83.48
Books of reference	43.80
Petty disbursements, postages and sundries	18.21
Fire Insurance, \$1,000	20.00
	\$4,306.21
Balance, carried to new account	439.33
	\$4,745.55
Balance, Cash in hand	\$439.33
E. & O. E.	G. K. DINDSALL, Secretary.

Yokohama, 1st January, 1884.

Examined and found correct, 4th February, 1884.

{ J. RICKETT,
L. C. MASTEN, } Auditors.

The ballot was then taken for the Chairman for the ensuing year, Mr. FRASER stating that he did not wish to serve again. This resulted in the election of Mr. W. B. Walter.

On the ballot for Vice-Chairman, Mr. Gay was reelected.

The following gentlemen were elected as Committee:—Messrs. Wilkin, Evers, Thomas, Lindsley, Wolff, Dodds, and Fraser.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. DODDS seconded, a vote of thanks to the Auditors for their trouble, which was carried.

Mr. LINDSLEY proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the able manner in which he had conducted the business during the last year.

Mr. WILKIN seconded this proposition, which was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN thanked them for their kind expressions, and said there had been no very important work to take hold of during the year. He was glad, nevertheless, to see that the Chamber held its own in point of numbers, and he thanked Mr. Walter for accepting the chairmanship.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual meeting of the Brigade was held yesterday afternoon (by kind permission) in the Chamber of Commerce Rooms. The following gentlemen were present:—Messrs. J. Dodds (in the chair), Jas. Walter (Hon. Sec. and Treasurer), E. Flint Kilby, W. C. Bing, E. Whittall, T. Brewer, A. Milne, W. B. Walter, and A. J. Wilkin.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he was sorry to have to remark on the very sparse attendance. The institution was one of very grave importance to Yokohama. He wished that the

people who were so ready to ventilate their ideas in the newspapers would make some suggestions as to the best means of protecting the Settlement from fires. The first business was to read the minutes of the last meeting.

These were read and confirmed.

Mr. KILBY proposed, and Mr. W. B. WALTER seconded, that the report and accounts, as laid on the table, be taken as read.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN wished to know whether any one had any remarks to offer about the accounts. The expenditure during the last year had no doubt been very heavy, but the Committee hoped that the results would fully justify it. The Brigade was now put on a thoroughly efficient footing and ready for every emergency. It was true, unfortunately, that at the fire at No. 51 both engines had broken down, the "Relief" bursting some boiler tubes and the valve in the pump of the "Victoria" giving way. The valve, however, was promptly replaced and the engine got to work. The repairs to the "Relief" would take some days, and in the meantime they hoped to make an arrangement whereby the new Japanese Police steam engine would be placed in the Fire Brigade compound. Both the engines had been recently tested by the engineer to a very high pressure, and they were found in good order although rather old. The expenditure had chiefly been on capital account, and such items were not likely to come in again for some years. During the next year there would be nothing to meet but the working expenses, unless something extraordinary happened which would entail extra expense, so that they hoped in time to be able to pay off the debit balance. The subscribers would see from the statement of accounts that there was a new item, namely, for police patrol, which had cost for working expenses \$749.54. This patrol was of great service, not only by giving the alarm as quickly as possible but also, as some of the newspapers had pointed out, by preventing thieves from carrying on their depredations. He thought that some of the members of the community who would not subscribe to the Brigade might be induced to subscribe to this branch of the service. The estimated expenses for the current year were as follows:—

Police Patrol	\$ 800.00
Sundries	160.00
Pumping Water	150.00
Manual Engines	1,100.00
Steam Engines	1,262.00
Total	3,472.00

and if the subscriptions amounted to the same figure as last year, namely, \$4,432.00, there would be a balance of \$967.00 to go towards reducing the debt due to the Hon. Treasurer. He hoped that the sale of water to tea firing godowns etc., would be increased. The outlay for pipes, pumps, tanks, etc., had been \$483.19, and the cost of pumping, etc., \$248.68, making a total of \$731.78, and they had received for water \$454.80, leaving a debit balance of \$276.98. The estimated working expenses for the present year are \$144.00, and if the receipts keep the same as last year, namely, \$454.80, in the two years the total cost of the plant will have been paid off and a balance left to the good of \$33.82.

Mr. W. B. WALTER remarked that the item of \$2,410.00 as subscriptions for 1883 was virtually from English Insurance offices and one or two others. The two local insurance offices expended in the support of their engine about \$1,800.00, which of course did not come into the accounts. At one time the English offices did not seem to think it their business to look after the prevention of fire, but they had seen the folly of their ways and now were doing more in London than they had ever done before. He would urge upon the Agents here to write home and point out the urgent necessity of making the Brigade thoroughly efficient. The residents not only gave money but their time and trouble, and he thought the amount subscribed by the Insurance offices was not nearly sufficient.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Walter for his remarks. Some of the offices said it was not their business, but always held out the hope of reduced

premiums if matters were better conducted and the buildings more substantially constructed. The community said they paid such high premiums that it was not their business, and so between the two the Brigade was not supported as it ought to be.

Mr. WILKIN thought the Home offices were of the opinion that it was as much the business of the community as theirs. There was a great deal of property not insured, and the offices were prepared to reduce premiums if they saw their way to it. The offices were likewise prepared to do their share if the community would come forward and do theirs, but they would not bear the whole burden. He was glad to find that the Honmura sluice had been repaired, as it ran through an important part of the Settlement, but he had heard there was still some difficulty in using it.

Mr. JAS. WALTER said that he had examined the sluice with an engineer, and it appeared that it had been built as a drain and not to hold water. If the gate of the sluice was closed it carried away the creek wall, and therefore they were obliged to keep it open. The sluice would never be of much use unless it were rebuilt.

Mr. W. B. WALTER suggested that the tubs on the Bluff were too far apart, and that when the Brigade was in funds it should have them mounted on wheels, so that a number of them could be run down right on the spot.

The CHAIRMAN said the tubs were a present to the Brigade, and were placed there as being better than nothing. In the last report it was stated that the generality of the wells on the Bluff were too deep, and it was proposed to construct reservoirs, but the expenses to which the Brigade had been put had rendered such an outlay impossible: of course tubs were only of use at the very commencement of a fire.

Mr. JAS. WALTER remarked that it would cost 6 yen each to mount the tubs on wheels. The proper thing would be to have tank engines, but as each engine cost from \$150 to \$175 and the tank \$40, it was hopeless to think about it. A tank engine would carry sufficient water to work for 25 minutes.

After some further conversation the subject dropped.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, in accordance with a suggestion of Mr. Macpherson's at the last meeting, the Secretary had placed in the report a valuation of the property destroyed at each fire, and it would be seen that the total amount for the 7 fires which occurred during the year was only \$80,000.

Mr. WILKIN wished to know whether it was not possible to come to some arrangement with Mr. Hegt, who took a great interest in fire prevention and was a thoroughly practical man. He thought Mr. Hegt's brigade might be subsidized in some way and made useful as a flying brigade, working independently. Of course the subsidy would depend upon their attending all fires.

Mr. JAS. WALTER said that both he and Mr. Rohde had spoken to Mr. Hegt of incorporating his service with the Brigade, but Mr. Hegt had refused to do so.

The CHAIRMAN believed Mr. Hegt was supposed to have a system, but what it was they had never been able to make out, and Mr. Hegt had never explained it. He had always shirked a fair trial.

Mr. WILKIN had great pleasure in moving the adoption of the report and passing the accounts. He was gratified to see the bold manner in which things had been taken in hand. He was sorry that the balance due to the Hon. Treasurer was so heavy, but expressed a hope that during the present year a great portion of it would be paid off.

Mr. E. WHITTALL seconded the motion, which was carried.

REPORT.

REMARKS ON ACCOUNTS.

RECEIPTS.

The subscriptions for 1883 show an increase of \$1,015 over those of 1882, Insurance Companies having contributed \$160 and private firms \$455 more than last year, in addition to which the Chinese community have contributed \$400, on condition that an engine be kept in the China Town. This entails a rental for premises of \$120 per annum. The Committee have to thank Mr. Chan Wong Chee, Chinese Consul, for the interest he has taken in the Brigade, and for inducing the Chinese community to become subscribers again. The sum of \$10 has been subscribed for the protection of the Bluff. A further sum of \$454.80 has been received for water supplied from the Brigade wells to tea firing compounds, for drinking purposes, which has been rather more than swallowed up for this year by the outlay of \$483.19 for iron pipes and pumping gear, and \$248.68 for labor. This, however, should be fully repaid in the course of next year.

DISBURSEMENTS.

These amount to \$7,259.12, which sum includes \$3,761.10 on Capital account, \$3,445.75 on Working account, and \$52.24 interest on overdraft, leaving a balance of \$2,665.07 due by the Brigade to the Hon. Treasurer. In the Capital Expenditure the principal items are for necessary Buildings, as detailed in the accompanying accounts, and in the Working Expenditure, which shows an increase of \$1,163.75 over last year, \$749.54 has been absorbed by the new item

of Police Patrol. This and the great rise in *kinsatsu*, fully account for the difference.

Commodious quarters are now provided for 150 scavenger coolies, in lieu of payment for working at fires, and the Coolie Superintendent has made arrangements by which no men shall always be on the spot in case their services are required.

WATER SUPPLY.

Repairs have been made by the Kencho authorities to the gates of the Honmura sluice, but this source of supply cannot be relied on at fires.

A new fire well has been made at the cost of the Brigade on the Bund opposite No. 2, iron pipes being extended into the sea to enable the Engines to work at low tide.

This well, after nearly a year's trial, has proved to be a thoroughly reliable source of water supply and, as funds permit, the Committee recommend that the number of these wells be increased.

The recommendation of the Committee in their last Report having been sanctioned at the subsequent meeting, the arrangements for a force of picked policemen were completed, and control clocks were fixed at (Nos. 193, 205, 241, 221, 224, 274.) (21, 47, 72, 54, 78, 59) (10, 20, 36, 86, 88, 62) (149, 154, 168, 134, 113, 161) in the Settlement, in order to ensure a vigilant and effective patrol. The Settlement is divided into 4 districts which are thoroughly patrolled throughout the night, the men being relieved every three hours. The early alarm now given of an outbreak of fire, has proved of great service to the Brigade, and your Committee in bearing witness to the greatly improved efficiency of the Japanese Police Force generally of this Settlement, are also of opinion that the comparative immunity from theft noticeable during the past year, is in no small measure attributable to the watchfulness of the night Patrol.

It would be most regrettable if, through insufficient support from the Community your Committee be compelled to discontinue this force, now so well organized.

The resignation of Police in February included Mr. Takahayachi (Keibu) who had done much to assist the Fire Brigade, but the harmonious working of the force with the police has continued under the management of the latter and Mr. T. Nozoe, who has done everything in his power to assist us.

FIRES.

In the Settlement and China Town there have been 7 fires, and 4 in the Japanese Town.

In two cases only the fires spread to adjoining buildings. The Committee have no satisfactory explanation of the cause of any of the fires in the foreign Settlement.

BLUFF.

The funds at the disposal of the Committee have not permitted any further outlay than was necessary for the placing of 24 water casks in convenient positions on the Bluff.

It is hoped that subscriptions will be sent in from private persons and firms somewhat more liberally for the ensuing year, to enable the Committee to increase the efficiency of the Brigade, as it will be seen from the subjoined statement that the private subscriptions only amounted to \$1,175 during the past year.

The Committee take this opportunity of thanking the Chief Superintendent, the Captains, officers and men of the various Steam Fire Brigades, the Japanese Municipal Fire Brigades, likewise Mr. Hegt, for the assistance rendered during the past year. The Committee have also to thank Mr. James Favre Brandt for the present of 3 Extinctors.

Mr. R. Rohde, Captain of the Brigade, having returned to Europe on leave, the Committee take this opportunity to thank that gentleman for the very great services he has rendered to the Brigade for several years past. The Committee would be glad to see more of the young men of the Settlement offering to fill the vacancies in the several Steam Fire Engine Companies, which have not quite their full complement of men at present.

FIRES—SETTLEMENT.

1883.
Mar. 8, 4.15 a.m., Lot 130, dwelling house owned by executors of Mrs. Hatton \$3,000 destroyed.
Mar. 14, 2.13 a.m., Lot 52, dwelling house and store, E. Jacot \$21,000 destroyed.
Mar. 15, 8.30 a.m., Lot 1450, China Town, \$2,000 destroyed.
Mar. 16, 3.45 a.m., Lot 355, Godowns, P. Bolan \$26,500 destroyed.
Sept. 15, 3.45 a.m., Lot 31, Dwelling, Madame Maigre \$1,500 destroyed.
Nov. 30, 3.15 a.m., Lot 70, Provision store, Mr. Hoffmann \$8,300 destroyed.
Dec. 25, 8.30 p.m., Lot 16, Water Street and Bund \$12,000 destroyed.

BLUFF NONK.

JAPANESE TOWN.
June 12, 9.20 a.m., Kita Nakadori, Tea house, 15 houses.
June 13, 4.30 p.m., Uchida-cho, Fireworks Manufacturer.
Sept. 8, 8.50 p.m., Omari Yato, 16 houses.
Nov. 9, 3.30 a.m., Honmura Zotoshi-in, 600 houses.

THE YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE IN ACCOUNT WITH THE HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

To Balance cost of 5 Bluff Engines \$375.00
To New Suction and Delivery hose and couplings 404.37
To Iron pipes to tea-firing godowns, pumps, tank and fittings 483.10
To Police Patrol clocks and fittings 260.00
To New Fire-well at No. 2 Bund 220.30
To One new small Shand and Mason's Metallic Engine 191.63
To One Extincteur 20.00
To One cart for Extincteurs 56.38

BUILDINGS.

To Coolies' Quarters \$593.76
To Engine House 538.43
To Balance cost of Police Quarters 274.10
To Furniture for Police Quarters, bullseye lamps, &c. 209.64
To Drainage and Sanitary improvements on Fire Brigade lot 80.60
To Fitting Gas to Police Quarters 24.70
To Alterations to American Engine house, 15-39
To Speaking Tube between Look-out and Police Quarters 13.20

\$1,749.52

3,761.10

WORKING EXPENDITURE.

STEAM FIRE ENGINES.

To Wages European Engineer \$840
To Wages two firemen 132
972.00
To Coal, oil, candles, and repairs to Engine and hose-carts 90.13
To Uniforms of Volunteer Members 200.00
1,262.13

MANUAL ENGINES.

To Wages of Japanese Firemen \$180.00
To Wages of European Foreman 360.00
To Wages of Coolie Foreman 84.00
To Wages of Look-out 42.00
To Rent of American Engine House, No. 159, 4 months at \$10 40.00
To Uniforms for Japanese Firemen 225.42
To Repairs and painting manual engines 74.66
To Salvage labor at Fires \$145.36
Less repaid by Insurance Co. 124.43
20.93

\$1,027.01

POLICE PATROL.

To 2 Sergeants and 8 Constables \$527.44
To Coal, oil, and sundry petty expenses 120.80
To Gas-lighting for Police Quarters during year 101.30
\$749.54

SUNDRIES.

To Ground Rent \$87.28
To Lighting Fire Brigade Yard, one gas lamp during year 33.93
To Printing reports, advertising, stationery 37.21
\$158.42

WATER SUPPLY.

To Coolie labour pumping water to tea godowns \$248.68
3,445.78

\$7,206.88

To Interest on overdraft to 31st Dec. 1883, \$2,612 for 3 months @ 8% 52.24

Total

\$7,259.12

CR.

By Balance from last year \$145.59
By Subscriptions for 1883, of which Insurance Offices paid \$2,410.00
Private firms and individuals 1,175.00
Chinese 400.00
3,085.00

454.80

By Sale of Water —
By Bank Interest 8.66
By Balance due Hon. Treasurer \$2,660.98
Less balance in H. & S. Bank 4.91
2,665.07

\$7,259.12

E. & O. E.

JAMES WALTER, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

Yokohama, 31st December, 1883.

I have examined the above statement with the vouchers and books, and find the same to be correct.

H. ABERG.

Mr. KILBY proposed, and Mr. WHITTALL seconded, a proposition that the present committee be re-elected.
Carried.

The committee consists of Messrs. J. Dodds, T. Brewer, Jas. Walter, G. W. Playfair, E. Flint Kilby, and W. C. Bing.

The CHAIRMAN said a most cordial vote of thanks was due to Mr. Jas. Walter, the Superintendent of the Brigade, and the executive officers, more especially Mr. Walter, for his zeal and ability and also for his time and trouble.

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held at the Theological Hall, 17, Tsukiji, on Wednesday, February 13th, the Vice-President for Tokyo in the chair.

The Minutes of the last Tokyo Meeting, having been published in both the daily and weekly editions of the *Japan Mail*, were taken as read.

Mr. O. KORSCHULT then read a paper "On the Chemistry of Japanese Lacquer" by himself and Mr. Yoshida. The paper opened with a brief account of the source and preparation of the lacquer, and of the conditions as to temperature and moisture under which it hardens to the best advantage. The interest of the paper lay, however, in the very complete discussion of the chemical constituents of the substance, and the synthetic determination of which of these were most essential in the action. The summary of results was given in these terms:—
1. The raw lacquer juice is an emulsion which contains: (a) a peculiar acid, called urushic acid, (b) a gum, (c) a nitrogenous body, (d) water, and (e) a volatile acid in traces. 2. The hardening of the lacquer-juice which takes place when the latter is exposed in a thin layer to moist air of (best) 20-27° C. is due to the oxidation of urushic acid into oxyurushic acid. 3. This oxidation is caused by the nitrogenous body which is an albumenoid and acts as a ferment. 4. The oxidation is not accompanied by hydration. The water must be present only to keep the ferment in solution, which else would not act. 5. The oxidation takes place within narrow limits of temperature, ranging from about zero Centigrade to the temperature of coagulation of albumen. 6. The gum seems to have a favourable influence in helping to keep the other substances in emulsion; but in the hardened lacquer its presence is injurious, causing it when in contact with water, to rise in blisters. 7. By mixture of the raw juice with urushic acid, the quantity of gum present is diminished, and the dried lacquer is enabled better to resist the injurious influence of water, besides obtaining a greater transparency. 8. The admixture of more than five parts urushic acid with one part juice weakens the action of the ferment and so deteriorates the quality of the lacquer. 9. The gum is very similar to gum arabic, but gives a sugar with two-thirds only of the reducing power of arabinose. 10. The ferment has the composition of albumen, except that it contains much less nitrogen. 11. Diastase and the ferment in the saliva cannot replace the lacquer ferment. Amongst other interesting points noted may be mentioned the following:—The difference between good and bad lacquers seems to depend mainly on the relative quantities of urushic acid and water present, the inferior lacquer having less acid and more water than the superior kind. The durable quality of lacquer is a property of the oxy-urushic acid, which is singularly negative in its actions, resisting all solvents tried, and affected by strong nitric acid only. The paper closed with a discussion of some of the salts of urushic acid, one (Potash urushiate) being shown as forming a remarkably black permanent ink.

Dr. DIVERS, in congratulating the authors of the paper upon their successful investigations, remarked that in all probability the direct effect of their work would be the improvement of the lacquer process, which was peculiarly a Japanese art.
In answer to an enquiry by Mr. J. M. DIXON, Mr. KORSCHULT stated his belief that lacquer poisoning was due to the urushic acid, which only gradually disappeared during the hardening process. In the best lacquers and in old lacquer there was of course no urushic acid.
Mr. YOSHIDA mentioned that he had found sugar of lead the best antidote to the poisoning—washing the skin in this substance removing at once all irritation.
The thanks of the Society were then conveyed by the Chairman to the authors, and the meeting was adjourned.

MUNICIPAL REFORM.

In conformity with a resolution passed at the Meeting held on the 8th of October last, to consider the subject of Municipal Reform in the Foreign Settlement of Yokohama, the following reply to the Memorandum of the Governor of Kanagawa has been sent to us for publication by the Committee:—

REJOINDER TO THE MEMORANDUM OF THE GOVERNOR OF KANAGAWA ON THE SUBJECT OF THE MUNICIPAL CONTROL OF YOKOHAMA.

On the 27th March, 1882, a largely attended meeting of the foreign community of Yokohama was held to discuss the question of reform in the local or municipal government of the Settlement. The meeting unanimously adopted a memorial setting forth the grievances complained of and suggesting a remedy. On the 13th of April following, the memorial was presented to the Corps Diplomatique through the Consular Board. On the 10th September, 1883, the Chairman of the adjourned meeting received from the Senior Consul a communication covering a document styled "Memorandum in reply to the Memorial concerning the Municipal Government in Yokohama submitted to the Conference by the Foreign Residents of Yokohama through the Delegate of Great Britain." This document purports to be, as its closing passages imply, a statement of reasons by Mr. Ōki Morikata, Governor of Kanagawa, for negating the prayer of the memorial. The adjourned meeting reassembled on the 1st and 8th October, and confirmed the appointment of a Committee, elected by the ballot of the community, consisting of Messrs. Gay, Walter, Talbot, von Hemert, Evers, and Thomas, authorizing that committee to submit a reply to the memorandum of the Governor of Kanagawa:—

1.—The Committee, in their reply, will first refer briefly to the last paragraphs of Mr. Ōki Morikata's memorandum. He says:—"The urgent necessity for a uniform and enforceable system of municipal

government is recognized by none more than by myself. The means to obtain this end are, however, not far to seek. It can be secured by applying the universally accepted rule that all the inhabitants of a country should be governed by the territorial laws and regulations."

The Kenrei here touches upon a subject which is solely for the consideration of the Japanese Government and the treaty powers, and is not within the province of the Committee to discuss. The memorialists refrained from making any reference to the question of ex-territorial jurisdiction, confining themselves to a statement of the existing condition of the Settlement, and to suggestions for its better government. The treaties, under which foreigners reside within the bounds of the Settlement of Yokohama, make no provision for municipal government, and the inhabitants, believing that an improvement can be made in the present state of things, sought, in conjunction with the local authorities, to devise means to administer affairs in a manner which shall be satisfactory to all.

Mr. Oki further says—"That the foreign Settlement is at present without an effective system of control is not the fault of the Kencho, but of those who, not only claim exemption from the local administrative laws and regulations, but sometimes place obstructions in the way of their due administration."

Foreigners cannot, however, claim exemption from, and wilfully obstruct the administration of, laws which are unknown to them. Moreover, those who urge improvement in the administration are peaceful and law-abiding citizens, who desire to see the establishment of a responsible and effective local government adapted to the needs of the foreign inhabitants, in order that they may be protected against unruly persons who may come amongst them, whether they be native or foreign.

2.—Touching the statement describing the formation, and surrender of a municipal government at the opening of Yokohama. The port was opened in 1859. Five years later the necessity for local control pressed itself upon the attention of the residents. Meetings were held. On the 7th March, 1865, a scheme was proposed and approved by a meeting; it was subsequently ratified by the authorities; a Council was elected, and held its first meeting June 9th, 1865. This Council had undertaken a task for the due performance of which it soon discovered its income to be inadequate. The Japanese authorities had consented to permit the Council to receive 20 per cent. of the ground-rent: this yielded about \$6,000. There were other sources of revenue derived from the taxation of taverns, &c., and the total income of the Council was approximately \$8,000. The Council further urged the adoption of municipal regulations similar to those in force in Shanghai, but the foreign representatives failed to procure the necessary countenance and sanction of the Imperial Government of Japan.

On June 24th, 1867, the Council, unable to carry on its functions for the reasons stated, passed a resolution to the effect that, it being evident that with existing receipts only the necessary yearly expenditure cannot be met, the Council should resign office: and a suggestion was made that the land-renters should memorialize the foreign representatives to invite the Japanese Government to take upon themselves all the duties of the municipality; the Government undertaking to effectually drain the Settlement, carry out all measures necessary for sanitary purposes, maintain an efficient European police, and establish a government office specially appropriated to municipal affairs, at the head of which should be an European surveyor of roads, &c. A Committee of land-renters was then appointed, and on the 15th July, 1867, they addressed the Ministers of Great Britain, Italy, France, the United States, and Prussia, and the Consuls-General of the Netherlands, Denmark, and the Swiss Confederation, expressing the desire that the Japanese Government should be asked to receive back into their hands the control and management of municipal affairs "on the ground that the 20 per centum now returned by the Government to the community for municipal purposes, is, with all that can be collected from licenses and such other sources as are available, totally inadequate to meet the necessary expenditure."

A commission having been specially appointed by the Japanese Government to consider the application, a collective note was signed November 4th, 1867, at the French Legation, setting forth the arrangements proposed for the future municipal control of Yokohama. On the 6th November following, the Representative of Great Britain, when forwarding a copy of the arrangements agreed upon to the Chairman of the Land-renters' Committee, wrote as follows:—

[Copy.] Yokohama, November 6th, 1867.

Sir,—I am directed by H.M.'s Representative in Japan, to inform you that immediately on his return from visiting the ports

of the western coast, he took into his serious consideration the letter which was addressed to him and the other Foreign Representatives on the 15th July, by a committee of the land-renters of Yokohama, requesting them to call upon the Japanese Government to receive back into their hands the control and management of the municipal affairs of the foreign Settlement of Yokohama, and to obtain from them guarantee that the work should be efficiently done.

H.M.'s Minister has, in concert with his colleagues the Representatives of France, Holland, Italy, Prussia, and the United States, been in communication on this subject with a commission specially appointed for the purpose by the Japanese Government, and they have finally concluded an arrangement—copy of which I have now the honour to inclose to you.

You will perceive that the main feature of this arrangement is the measure recommended in the resolution adopted by the meeting of land-renters, on the 24th June last, namely—the resumption by the Japanese authorities of the municipal duties, and the establishment of a Government office, specially appropriated to municipal affairs, with an European at the head of it.

In consequence of the great difficulty of finding any other competent person willing to undertake the duties of the proposed office, H.M.'s Minister, at the request of the other Foreign Representatives any of the Japanese Commissioners, has allowed Mr. Dohmen, of H.M.'s Consular Service, and at present employed in the Kanagawa Consulate, to assume the direction of the municipal office. I am instructed, however, to observe to you that this provisional arrangement with Mr. Dohmen can only be continued until the pleasure of H.M.'s Government shall be ascertained.

H.M.'s Minister further directs me to inform you that the arrangement now concluded with the Japanese Government is not a permanent or unalterable one; on the contrary, should experience at any future time show that its revision is desirable, it will be in the power either of the Foreign Representatives or of the Japanese Government to call for a reconsideration of the question.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) SYDNEY LORUCK.

To Wm. Marshall, Esq.,
President of the Committee of Land-renters at Yokohama.

On the 6th, 7th, and 9th November respectively similar communications, all uniting in stating the arrangement to be provisional only, and depending for its permanent establishment on success in its working, were made to the Committee by the Ministers of Prussia, United States, and Netherlands.

The terms of the arrangement having been made operative, a very short time only elapsed before it became evident that a revision was desirable, and on April 8th, 1869, a public meeting nominated a committee to endeavour to obtain a revision. This committee relied upon the temporary character of the arrangements then in force, and proposed the formation of a properly constituted municipality receiving from the Japanese Government 80 per centum of the ground-rents. The committee urged that eighteen months' experience of the system introduced served to show "the unsatisfactory state of the streets, the marked inefficiency of the municipal police, and the deplorable sanitary condition of the Settlement." The committee added that the general conclusion at which the community had arrived was that the Japanese Government were incapable of understanding and fulfilling the municipal duties required of them; and this impression has never been lessened, for the memorialists of 1882 repeated it in similar words saying,—"the local government are not in a position to understand the wants of a well ordered foreign Settlement; or to undertake its control without the assistance of an advisory committee of foreign residents." In support of the application that a municipality should be granted, the committee of 1869 urged that the Government of Japan had delegated part of their municipal rights by the agreement of November 4th, 1867, to a foreign municipal director acting under authority of the Governor of Kanagawa; a course which had not been satisfactory, and the proposition was that the Government of Japan should delegate to a corporation the same or fuller powers than they had delegated to an individual. That the Government could delegate such power by the grant of a charter is beyond doubt, for there is the certain evidence of the legality of the course pursued in Shanghai, where the land regulations drawn up by a committee elected by the community were approved of by a commissioner representing the Chinese Government and ratified by the joint notification of the representatives of Great Britain, North German Confederation, Russia, France, and the United States, making such regulations enforceable in the consular courts of their respective nationalities.

These details are cited for the purpose of showing that the community have never been satisfied with an arrangement which has not worked well; and that since its inauguration a series of efforts have been made to secure reform. And we believe that the share of municipal control granted to foreigners in 1865 has never been surrendered except conditionally and temporarily; that the conditions have not been carried out, and that by virtue of the understanding between the Japanese commissioners and the representatives of the treaty powers it is open to foreign residents to call for a reconsideration of the question.

In the interval to 1877 there was a nominal chief of a municipality in the person of Mr. Benson, to whom the Government of Japan delegated certain municipal powers which we now claim may be extended to a committee. His office was, however, abolished in 1877. In reference thereto, Mr. Oki says:—"This determination was duly communicated to the foreign consuls who raised no objections thereto, while the British Consul in his reply dated July 4, 1877, expressed his approval of the arrange-

ment." To this we urge, that the abolition of the office of municipal director was a most distasteful step to the foreign community, and a memorial dated May 19th, 1877, signed by the principal mercantile houses and leading residents, was forwarded to the Consular Board, stating that the proposed change in the municipal arrangements was, in the memorialists' opinion, very objectionable, as tending to depose the community from all agency in matters intimately concerning themselves. With full knowledge of the presentation of this protest to the Consular Board we are unable to find justification for Mr. Oki's assumption that the abolition of the office of municipal director was acquiesced in by the foreign community or their consular representatives.

When Mr. Oki says the memorialists seek once more to obtain municipal control of the foreign Settlement he entirely misconceives the spirit of their request. In order to meet existing difficulties they proposed the formation of an advisory board, to be composed of Japanese and foreigners, which should frame rules and regulations enforceable in Japanese courts as well as at the various consulates. The memorialists had in view only the good government of the Settlement, believing that this can best be attained by coöperation with the local authorities. They have no desire to take upon themselves a difficult task, but it seems necessary, for an effective government, that those who know best the wants of the inhabitants should take part in the direction of affairs.

3.—These remarks dispose of what the memorandum is pleased to call the inconsistency of the foreign residents of Yokohama in wishing to devise an effective form of municipal government.

4.—It is clearly stated in the memorandum that the Kenrei is unable to govern the foreign Settlement. He complains of the wilful disobedience, on the part of the residents, of rules and regulations which have never been promulgated, and of which they have absolutely no knowledge:—he accuses foreigners of harbouring thieves and other disorderly persons, and demands a general warrant to enable the police, in order to do their ordinary duty, to enter foreigners' premises, without question at any time, a power which the representatives of the treaty powers cannot grant, as it would be inconsistent with the laws and customs of their own countries.

5.—Mr. Oki says, with reference to burglary, that "it could not be expected that the [police] corps would be as effective as required because they meet with many difficulties in the proper discharge of their duties, arising from the fact that they are not clothed with any authority over foreigners." But authority over foreigners, or power to enter their premises, are not requisites to prevent burglars from breaking into godowns abutting directly upon streets which are entirely in the jurisdiction of the local government.

Mr. Oki says again, "in any honest endeavour to suppress crimes the first requisite is to drive out the thieves and other bad characters concealing themselves on foreign premises . . . but that this can never be done unless the police are empowered to enter the foreigner's premises for the purpose of arresting suspected persons." The inference is, that the police believe bad characters are concealed upon foreign premises. If they have good reason to believe this to be true, why do they not give information to the occupants of such premises and obtain permission to enter and arrest? Such permission would not be refused by the majority of foreign residents, upon proper representation. Foreigners do not hesitate to call upon the police without any formality, when they find thieves or disorderly persons on their grounds, and are always glad of their services in arresting suspected persons. It is difficult to understand the nature of a Japanese policeman's duties, if, because he is denied the unheard of permission to enter foreigners' premises at all times, he declines to protect their property from thieves and burglars, when even ordinary care would seem to be sufficient for the purpose.

6.—Mr. Oki is at a loss to understand the memorialists' complaint regarding the roads and drains, and refers to the "construction of the main drains now being carried out in the midst of the foreign Settlement." It should be pointed out, however, that the sewers in Main and Water, streets have been laid down since the memorial was written, and although the work was important and necessary, the streets referred to were left, long afterwards, in a worse condition than before, so that parts of them were almost impassable for heavy traffic in wet weather for nearly a year; and the repairs are still incomplete. The committee are unwilling to criticise adversely any improvements undertaken by the Kencho, but they may be permitted to express the opinion that the cost of the work, as stated by Mr. Oki, was far larger than it need have been, and that with better

management the roads might have been kept, as the work progressed, in a condition which would have left nothing to be desired.

The memorandum states as a "fact that foreign residents and their servants make the drains receptacles of sewerage, of all kinds or privately alter the course of such drains, thus causing them to be choked up," &c., &c. The truth of this statement must be called in question, as foreigners are not permitted, even if they had the inclination, to make excavations in the streets without which the drains cannot be reached. Whenever private drains are made to connect with those in the public thoroughfares, the work is done under supervision of officers from the Kencho, by their own staff of workmen, and if the street drains become choked, the fault is due to imperfect construction, or want of care in not keeping them free, and not from improper use of them by foreigners.

7.—With reference to "about one hundred" Japanese who reside in the foreign settlement without permission from the Kanagawa Kencho, and acknowledged to be the men "who are engaged in disreputable trades," Mr. Oki says—"In order to keep these people under control, it is essential that a strict surveillance be exercised over the servants of foreigners and the managers of servants' agencies; and it was for this reason that the proposed rules in that behalf were submitted to the Board of Foreign Consuls in July, 1876, and again in August, 1877, and although indispensable, they have never been agreed to." The proposal to the Consuls referred to, was that "the Governor should be provided with a general warrant enabling the proper officers to enter freely into the premises occupied by foreigners, of whatever nationality, when there is reason to suspect that offenders are concealing themselves therein." To this the Committee say that it exhibits great weakness on the part of the Governor if he has no power over known Japanese offenders who, as he says, have no right of residence in the foreign Settlement. If the evil exists the remedy is easy, as foreigners do not knowingly harbour Japanese or other offenders; certainly a warrant of the nature referred to is not required for its abatement. But the Consuls have no power to grant such general warrant even if it were desirable that they should do so. There is, however, a better remedy than the one proposed by Mr. Oki, and the only effective one that can be adopted to correct the many difficulties in the way of successful management of the affairs of the Settlement, and that is, a properly constituted municipal government, with authority to administer rules and regulations made under the sanction of the Imperial Government and the representatives of the foreign powers.

In closing this paper, the Committee have only to add that the memorial pointed to a method by which the requirements of the inhabitants would be met, but as the petition was not favourably received it was hoped the election of a permanent Committee, with whom the local authorities could consult, would be the means of meeting to some extent the existing difficulties, and if that Committee should have official recognition in their capacity as representatives of the foreign inhabitants, their counsel and suggestions would be useful in many ways, and be the means of bringing about a good understanding between the Japanese local authorities and the residents: the wants of the foreign community would be better understood and provided for; and many difficulties noticed in the memorandum would disappear, while the government of the Settlement would be more efficient than is possible under the existing system.

The Committee are not unmindful of the serious nature of the responsibility which falls upon the Kenrei in the care of a territory occupied by a foreign community, with whose customs he cannot be entirely familiar, and they fully appreciate the Governor's efforts to perform his difficult task with satisfaction; they readily acknowledge the improvements which have lately been made, particularly in some of the roads, and gladly take this opportunity to express their appreciation of Mr. Oki's activity and ability.

A. O. GUY, Chairman.
W. B. WALTER,
W. H. TALBOT,
J. REYNAUD,
J. P. VON HEMERT,
AUG. EVERS,
TOM. THOMAS.

} Committee.

Yokohama, February 17th, 1884.

TRANSLATIONS FROM NATIVE JOURNALS.

THE NEW CONSCRIPTION REGULATIONS.

(Translated from the *Fiji Shimpō*.)

Our readers will remember the articles published in this journal, on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of April last, which treated of the necessity for making the National Army service the duty of all. The gist of those articles was:—(1) the extension of the scope of the service; (2) the necessity for making the service compulsory without exception; and (3) the stimulation of the military spirit of the nation. Conscription regulations, based upon these principles, are most urgently needed by Japan at the present juncture, but as there is a tendency to regard the general enrolment with disfavour, it is necessary to make it compulsory on every male of the population. Imperfect as were the old Conscription Regulations, the service was not universal, and there came to be a general feeling of "escape from the conscription" indicative of a want of patriotism. On the occasion referred to, we suggested that the service should be made obligatory, and that, instead of a fee for exemption, a duty called Military Service Tax should be levied on those who are temporarily exempted from it, and that those individuals should be drilled for three months every year.

On the 28th of December last, there were published the Conscription Regulations in the form of Notification No. 46. Although these do not entirely coincide with our views, yet they show a great improvement as compared with the old regulations, in so far as the extension of the scope of enrolment, and the compulsory nature of the service are concerned. Therefore are we right in saying that they are a great achievement of the Government. According to the old rules, deformed and crippled persons and those sentenced to penal servitude for upwards of one year, were exempt from service. Heads of families, single sons, single grandsons, adopted sons, and heirs of people above fifty years of age, and great grandsons, were not required to serve except in the Territorial Army. Heirs of people not fifty years old, and great grandsons and cadets of the Military and Naval Colleges were not liable, except in time of emergency. Those who were responsible for the support of families on account of their fathers or elder brothers having deserted them, or being deformed or crippled; also those who had completed one year's term in the Government schools, and those who were in foreign countries for commercial and educational purposes, were exempt from immediate enrolment. According to the new rules, all males, except deformed or maimed persons, are compelled to enter the Army. Even heirs of persons above the age of sixty, and great grandsons, are liable to be called upon in case of war or any other similar emergency. Priests, students of the Government colleges, teachers who have completed a course higher than the intermediate, and those studying in foreign countries, are likewise liable, the only difference being that they are not called upon to serve, while engaged in their respective pursuits. Persons, other than the heads of families, are entitled to temporary exemption under certain circumstances, provided they are not the heads of families who are registered in other families, or the head of new houses separated from the old family, or of houses re-established. Thus, the new rules are more minute than the old ones. "Escape from conscription" will be abolished for ever, and we might now say that the service has become obligatory upon all men.

The first impression conveyed in reading the new rules is that of the enlargement of the scope of enlistment. Amongst others, the abolition of the fee for exemption, and the enrolment of eldest sons whose fathers are not older than sixty years, should not only put a stop to the deficiency of recruits but bring in a large number. Under these circumstances, there can be no question that the Army will shortly undergo a marked improvement as regards both the stature and the martial appearance of the men as well as to their numbers. We may now have soldiers of much better physique and taller than previously. Sons of rich families, who would have otherwise become effeminate through the indulgences inseparable from their condition, will receive good physical training and be converted into useful men. The conscription is, therefore, beneficial, whether considered from the military or moral standpoint. And not this alone: it will go far towards the improvement of the Japanese race. In the old feudal time, the *Daimiyo* and Court Ministers secluded themselves in Palaces, where no cold wind blew nor hot

weather prevailed, and they indulged in peace and plenty, almost forgetting the military arts. In consequence of this, their intellects were cramped and their physical growth was checked. They could not enjoy their gifts to the fullest extent, and the evil was transmitted to their descendants. This physical demoralization is more than significant now. Tradesmen and farmers came almost within the same category—which fact is very regrettable—though some allowance must be made for the political circumstances then existing. They amassed money, and spent it in debauchery, but knew nothing of manly accomplishments. They were frightened by the report of a gun; they turned pale at the sight of a naked sword; they could not mount a horse; and they knew nothing of out-door sports. Thus, both intellectually and physically, they have been degraded. But now we have no *Daimiyo* nor Court nobles, and the class distinctions of former days no longer exist. They are all the people of *Dai Nippon* and the backbone of the nation. It reflects great credit upon the Government that the poor and the rich, the high and the low, are alike made liable. Some may say that the new conscription law is too stringent, but such an opinion is as untenable as it is absurd. The number of yearly recruits is limited and cannot be increased more than the finances admit. The intention of our rulers is to have a certain number of regulars on the muster-roll who can be increased to a larger number from the reserves in time of foreign war. The new rules do neither augment nor decrease the number of recruits. According to the old rules, many were exempted from service, so that the recruits were in the ratio of say 10,000 to every 100,000. But now this number is to be enrolled from among 150,000 or probably 200,000. In fact, the new rules are not stringent at all; on the contrary, they are much milder than the old ones. Allegorically speaking, formerly one load weighing one hundred *kwamme* was borne by ten men; whereas now it is borne by twenty men. There is no increase in the weight, but the number of persons to carry it is doubled. This is exactly the case with the new conscription regulations. We cannot see why some people should denounce them. They are probably those who have lost their chance of escape by the introduction of the new rules, and are therefore discontented.

We have a strong hope that the enlistment of a better educated class in the army will elevate the position of conscripts generally.

THE BANKS OF JAPAN.

(Translated from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*.)

Business is at a standstill, and money does not circulate as it should. This is the public outcry, which we hear repeated on every side. We are convinced that these complaints are thoroughly consistent with the truth. Under these circumstances traders, farmers, and manufacturers must suffer, and as the banks have to supply the financial machinery on which the whole of our national commerce turns they surely ought to feel the effects of trade stagnation more than do the mercantile communities themselves. Any other state of affairs can but surprise and astonish the public. The rate of dividends paid by the various companies and banks during the latter half of last year, from June to December, shows that, despite dull times, the banks have, with a few exceptions realised a profit of from 10 to 20 per cent. What the average percentage of the profit on the aggregate capital of all the banks is, we shall not be able to state until the publication of the report of the Banking Bureau. We may, however, in the meantime, assume that the average profit is 12 or 13 per cent. This assumption, taking into consideration the expenses of bank-management, taxes, reserve funds for the redemption of paper currency, bad debts, and salaries and annuities of the bank employes, shows that the gross profit is more than 20 per cent. per annum. This profit is, of course, derived directly from their capital. The Nippon Railway Company and the Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha have declared dividends of 10 and 9 per cent, the sole result of business transacted. The insurance companies have dividends of 10 per cent. derived from the fees charged on policies issued, while the exchange offices naturally realize a commission on all their transactions. There is a decided difference between the profits of such establishments, as they do not include the direct employment of capital, and those of the banks; nor can they be placed on a similar footing. All the banks, with the two exceptions of the Nippon and Specie Banks, are national concerns, enjoying the privilege of the issue of notes on the security of Public Loan Bonds. The profits that accrue are due to the interest on the securities and the issues. Say, for instance, that a National Bank invests a

capital of 100,000 yen in 7 per cent. Bonds; these bonds, though nominally worth 100,000 yen, may be bought for 80,000 yen, bringing in 7,000 yen annually. On the other hand, there is a further interest of 7,000 yen derived from 80,000 yen worth of bank notes at 9 per cent—issued on the security of the Public Loan Bonds. The total interest would thus amount to 14,000 yen. In this case it is not unusual for the banks to declare a dividend of 10 per cent. Though business has been at a very low ebb since 1882, the banks have always cleared a profit of more than 10 per cent. In 1883 there was a great depression in the money market, and many establishments were almost paralyzed for want of ready cash, yet the banks have, almost without exception, been able to declare large dividends. This fact is, we are persuaded, due to the privileges enjoyed by the national banks, and the skilful manner in which they employed their capital. We must indeed congratulate the shareholders upon the satisfactory working of these institutions. But whether this congratulation can be extended to the general public is quite a different question.

Glancing at the relations existing between the national banks and their customers, one is immediately struck with the absence of public confidence and the wide spread of a feeling of distrust. The true prosperity of business is founded upon the confidence which should be mutually entertained by the banks and their clients. This is the very essence of success; this is the only trustworthy condition of affairs, a fact which was thoroughly recognized and duly explained by the present Minister of Finance in the inaugural meeting of the Nippon Bank. Trade has doubtless, like everything else, undergone great changes since the days of the Restoration. But during this period of change the confidence of our farmers, traders, and manufacturers has been completely lost, and its recovery now seems a hopeless matter. The banks are decidedly responsible for the restoration of public confidence, but they hesitate to give their clients any credit whatever. Whether their customers are men of integrity and ability, and whatever the trade may be in which they are engaged, are matters of little consequence to the banks: money is lent only on the best security. The position of affairs is not very different from the mode of dealing customary with pawn-brokers, who first examine the worth of the article to be pawned before advancing any money on it. As an actual fact, our banks are really nothing but money-lending establishments which do a pawn-broker's business. Indeed, there is rather a point in favour of the pawn-shops in the fact that they occasionally lend as much as 150 yen on one article of clothing. In this respect, the banks are below the level of pawn-shops. They do not employ their capital as briskly as they might, and their clients do not enjoy much financial relief in consequence. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank was recently defrauded of nearly \$200,000. The blame fell upon the manager of the bank, who gave too unlimited a credit; yet it redounds to his credit that he gave the money on the security of his client's business ability. None of our banks have done, or can do, the same thing. The dividends declared for the latter half of 1883 arise from profits made solely on loans issued on good security; the pledges being lodged in the strong rooms of the banks. Money is thus dropping steadily out of frequent circulation. Though the matter of interest on the capital may not have decreased, the demand for cash is becoming less and less active. The fact that our banks show large profits during the last year is not at all a matter of universal congratulation; especially when the questions of political economy are taken into consideration.

CHESS.

Solution to Chess Problem of 16th February, 1884, by E. H. COURTENAY.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| White. | Black. |
| 1.—B. to Q. 2. | 1.—P. takes Kt. |
| 2.—K. to K. 2. | 2.—Anything. |
| 3.—Q. mates. | |
| | if 1.—K. to K. 3. |
| 2. { Q. to K. 3, } ch. | 2.—Anything. |
| { B. to Kt. 7, } | |
| { or Kt. to B. 6. } | |
| 3.—Mates accordingly. | |

Correct answer received from "TESA."

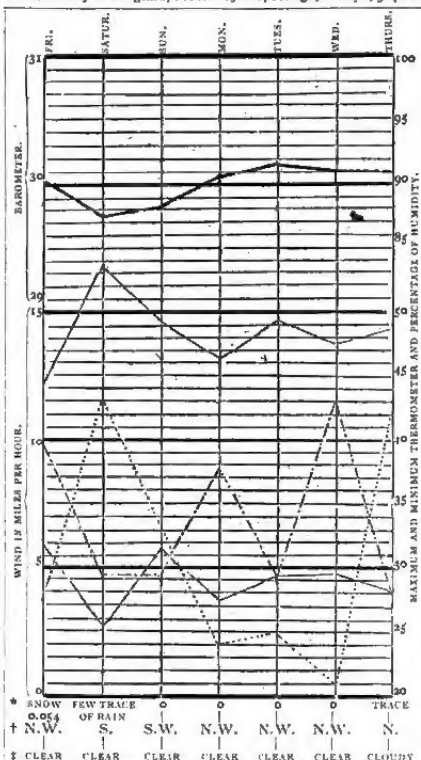
YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

The Yokosuka steamers leave the English Hatoba daily at 8.50 and 10.30 a.m., and 12.15, 2.30, and 4 p.m.; and leave Yokosuka at 7.15 and 9 a.m., and 12 m. and 1.45 and 4.00 p.m.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

FOR WEEK BEGINNING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH, 1884.

Observatory of Dalgaku, Moto-Fujicho, Hongō, Tokyo, Japan.



REMARKS.

Heavy line represents barometer.
Light continuous line—maximum and minimum thermometers.
Dashed line—velocity of wind.

The barometer is reduced to the freezing point and to the level of the sea.

* Rain in inches. † Direction of Wind. ‡ Weather.

Maximum velocity of wind 39.8 miles per hour on Friday at 1 p.m.

The highest reading of the barometer for the week was 30.280 inches on Thursday at 10 a.m., and the lowest was 29.653 inches on Saturday at 11 p.m.

The highest temperature for the week was 53.3 on Saturday, and the lowest was 25.8 on same day. The maximum and the minimum for the corresponding week of last year were 50.2 and 27.9 respectively.

The total amount of rain and snow for the week was 0.046 inches, against 1.790 inches for the corresponding week of last year.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, & Kobe ... per M. B. Co. Thursday, Feb. 21st.

From America ... per O. & O. Co. Saturday, March 1st.*
From Hongkong ... per P. M. Co. Thursday, Feb. 28th.†
From Hongkong ... per P. & O. Co. Saturday, March, 1st‡

* Arrive left San Francisco on February 10th. † City of Rio de Janeiro left Hongkong on February 21st. ‡ Khiva left Hongkong on February 22nd. The Yakuchiko Maru (with English mail) left Hongkong on February 15th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Kobe ... per M. B. Co. Monday, Feb. 25th.

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ... per M. B. Co. Wednesday, Feb. 27th.

For America ... per P. M. Co. Saturday, March 1st

For Europe, via Hongkong ... per M. M. Co. Saturday, March 1st.

For Europe, via Hongkong ... per P. & O. Co. Saturday, March 8th.

The arrival and departure of mails by the Occidental and Oriental, the Pacific Mail, and the Peninsular and Oriental Companies, are approximate only.

YOKOHAMA-TOKIO RAILWAY.

The Trains LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 7.30, 8.45, 9.30,* 10.15, and 11.30 a.m., and 1.00, 2.30, 4.00,* 5.00, 6.15, 8.00, 9.15, and 10.30† p.m.

The Trains LEAVE TOKIO (Shinbashi) at 7.30, 8.45, 10.00,* 10.45, and 11.30 a.m., and 1.00, 2.30, 4.00,* 5.00, 6.15, 8.00, 9.15, and 10.30† p.m.

Those marked with (*) run through without stopping at Tsurumi, Kawasaki, and Onodori Stations. Those with (†) are the same as above with the exception of stopping at Kawasaki Station.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 16th.

AFFAIRS IN EGYPT.

Major-General Gordon has telegraphed, asking for money, arms, and ammunition.

The rebels have invested Kassala, and it is expected that they will attack Tokar before the arrival of the British troops at that place.

London, February 18th.

GENERAL GORDON IN THE SOUDAN.

Major-General Gordon has recognised El Mahdi. The Sultan of Kordofan has been to Khartoum.

London, February 22nd.

THE SOUDAN.

The expeditionary forces to Tokai are proceeding to rendezvous at Rasmala.

Major-General Gordon is very popular, and is establishing great influence.

London, February 22nd, 5.30 p.m.

Cotton, unaltered; 5½ for Mid. Uplands. Yarns, market dull and little doing. Shirtings, market steady. Silk, market very quiet and prices weak.

[FROM THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

London, 8th February.

THE SOUDAN QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

The Marquis of Salisbury in the House of Lords, and Sir Stafford Northcote in the House of Commons, will, on Tuesday next, bring forward a motion to the effect that the disasters in the Soudan are due to the vacillating policy of the English Government.

London, 9th February.

AFFAIRS IN EGYPT.

Latest advices from the Soudan state that Suakin has been declared in a state of siege.

Baker Pasha and his Egyptian troops are to be recalled.

Three British officers will reorganise the Blacks and Turks, who will hold Suakim.

DEATH OF CETEWAYO.

Latest advices from Durban announce that King Cetewayo has died suddenly.

NOTES FROM JAPANESE PAPERS

A general meeting will be held in the Sanji-in to-day.

The oysters in the beds at Kanagawa have rapidly increased in size, and are in excellent condition. A large quantity was dredged the other day and presented to the high dignitaries of State.—Yubin Hochi Shimbun.

One of the Imperial Princes of Austria is expected here about the end of next April. Preparations for his reception are being made.

It is stated that the fund of the Foreign Office for the investigation of foreign affairs is to be increased. This sum is independent of the annual expenditure.

A broker of the Yokohama Bourse was arrested four days ago while walking down Benten-dori, when 3,000 yen were found on his person. His brother went at once to the Police Station in order to recover the money, but was also detained in custody. This action caused sundry vague apprehensions to be entertained by the local brokers and speculators, and materially affected business for the time. A petition has, in consequence, been dispatched to the authorities.—Fuyu Shimbun.

LATEST SHIPPING.

FREIGHT.

There have been a few charters effected here during the interval, mostly to load new season's sugar at Takao for this port, the following vessels having been taken up for that trade:—British bark *Velocity*, 460 tons, 22½ cents per picul; German brig *Minerva*, 219 tons, 23 cents per picul; German bark *Orient*, 460 tons, 25 cents per picul; British barkentine *Glenury*, 283 tons, 26 cents per picul. The demand for steam tonnage has not been great, but the supply has been fully equal to all requirements.

ARRIVALS.

Moray, British steamer, 1,427, W. S. Duncan, 16th February,—Hongkong 10th February, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.
Orient, German bark, 460, W. G. Roder, 16th February,—Takao 26th January, 11,500 piculs Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Solidor, British bark, 340, Lundholm, 16th February,—Takao 25th January, 6,300 piculs Sugar.—H. MacArthur.
Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, R. N. Walker, 17th February,—Hakodate 14th and Ogino-hama 16th February, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Kairio Maru, Japanese steamer, 320, Amano, 17th February,—Yokkaichi 14th February, General.—Handasha.
Kowyeiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 63, Omura, 17th February,—Yokkaichi 14th February, General.—Kowyekisha.
Carondelet, American ship, 1,438, W. F. Stetson, 18th February,—New York 18th October, 48,000 cases Kerosene.—Smith, Baker & Co.
City of Tokio, American steamer, 3,129, J. Maury, 18th February,—San Francisco 24th January, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.
Onoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 104, Sugimoto, 18th February,—Fukuda 14th February, General.—Kowyosha.
Toloni Maru, Japanese steamer, 19,70, James, 18th February,—Hakodate 16th February, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.
Okame Maru, Japanese steamer, 148, Ichishima, 19th February,—Handa 16th February, General.—Handasha.
Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,229, C. Young, 19th February,—Kobe 16th February, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 728, P. Hussey, 19th February,—Kobe 17th February, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Volga, French steamer, 1,583, Benoist, 19th February,—Hongkong 13th February, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.
Hermann, German bark, 444, M. Traulsen, 20th February,—Takao 13th January, 10,000 piculs Sugar.—J. E. Collyer & Co.
Mikuni Maru, Japanese steamer, 412, Taneda, 20th February,—Kobe 18th February, General.—Seiriussha.
Kiyokawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 62, Emada, 21st February,—Shimizu 20th February, General.—Seiriussha.
Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 459, Tamura, 21st February,—Yokkaichi 20th February, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Shima Maru, Japanese steamer, 230, Okuma, 21st February,—Yokkaichi 20th February, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.
Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,146, R. Swain, 21st February,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Tsukai Maru, Japanese steamer, 42, Hirao, 21st February,—Shimizu 20th February, General.—Todasha.
Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 670, Lampert, 21st February,—Yokkaichi 20th February, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.
Horai Maru, Japanese steamer, 314, Arai, 21st February,—Kobe 20th February, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Saikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 102, Nonaka, 21st February,—Toba 20th February, General.—Yamamoto Kwaisha.
Feronia, German steamer, 1,115, P. Paulsen, 22nd February,—Kobe 21st February, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.
Marie, German bark, 465, H. Ipland, 22nd February,—Takao 4th February, 11,700 piculs Sugar.—J. E. Collyer & Co.

Taganoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 428, Matsumoto, 23rd February,—Yokkaichi 21st February, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 646, Thomas, 22nd February,—Kobe 21st February, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Shima Maru, Japanese steamer, 230, Toyoshima, 16th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.
Matsumaye Maru, Japanese steamer, 472, Sakai, 17th February,—Hakodate, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Minerva, German brig, 319, P. Duhme, 17th February,—Takao, Ballast.—J. E. Collyer & Co.
Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 428, Tamura, 17th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 646, Thomas, 17th February,—Kobe, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Velocity, British bark, 460, R. Martin, 17th February,—Takao, \$20,000.00 Treasure.—J. E. Collyer & Co.
Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, J. Adair, 18th February,—Fushiki and Bakan via Kobe, Mails and General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.
City of Tokio, American steamer, 3,129, J. Maury, 19th February,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.
Dauka Maru, Japanese steamer, 97, Shimizu, 19th February,—Nomaka, General.—Tokai Kisan Kwaisha.
Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, R. N. Walker, 19th February,—Kobe, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,863, J. Wynn, 19th February,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Kairio Maru, Japanese steamer, 370, Amano, 19th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Handasha.
Onoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 104, Sugimoto, 19th February,—Fukuda, General.—Hanyei-sha.
Harler, British steamer, 1,196, Grandin, 20th February,—Kobe, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.
Kowyeiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 63, Omura, 20th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Kowyekisha.
Okame Maru, Japanese steamer, 148, Ichishima, 20th February,—Handa, General.—Handasha.
Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 616, P. Hussey, 20th February,—Yokosuka Dock.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Kengi Maru, Japanese steamer, 236, Masuda, 21st February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Handasha.
Kiyokawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 62, Emada, 21st February,—Shimizu, General.—Seiriussha.
Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, C. Young, 21st February,—Hakodate, Mails and General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Horai Maru, Japanese steamer, 314, Arai, 22nd February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.
Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 670, Lampert, 23rd February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.
Kashgar, British steamer, 1,515, W. J. Webber, 23rd February,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
Shavio Maru, Japanese steamer, 457, Streamer, 23rd February,—Hakodate, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Fukase, Yoshisaki, Nagaoka, and Watanbe in cabin; and 29 Japanese in steerage. From Oginohama: Messrs. Oyama, Takata, Mayeda, Kitatani, and Sotoguchi in cabin; and 31 Japanese in steerage.
 Per American steamer *City of Tokio*, from San Francisco:—Miss E. Simms, Miss Grace Smith, Miss J. Stone, Messrs. M. Mariani, C. P. Low, Henry Bachr, J. F. Stone, M. Weiher and wife, H. W. Tileston, and J. Rennie in cabin; and 1 Japanese in steerage. For Hongkong: Miss E. Prosper, Messrs. H. S. Greeley, and M. Atchinson in cabin; and 77 Chinese in steerage.
 Per French steamer *Volga*, from Hongkong:—Mrs. Komawasa, infant, and female servant,

Messrs. G. Gilbert, C. Baird, Geffney, Inamura, Hanagoro, Katayama, and Okudaira in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Okame Maru*, from Handa:—9 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. Haack and 2 Japanese in cabin; and 93 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tsuruga Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. Whymark in cabin; and 6 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Mikuni Maru*, from Kobe:—23 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Kiyokawa Maru*, from Shimizu:—16 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Seirio Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—51 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Shima Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—35 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—H. E. Inouye, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Madame Inouye, and Miss Inouye, Mr. and Mrs. Koh, Mr. and Mrs. Saito, Mr. and Mrs. Kanematsu, Messrs. Eduljee, L. de Lalande, J. C. Syme, MacNagh, E. H. Murray, Reichel, Katsunada, Kaneda, Sakanouye, Yano, Sato, Fujisawa, Ishihama, Mitsuma, Yugawa, Yoshikawa, in cabin; and Mr. MacGovern, U.S.N. in second class; and 1 Chinese and 200 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. L. P. Joutet, U.S.N. in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Tsukai Maru*, from Shimizu:—5 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Gembu Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—56 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikai Maru*, from Toba:—25 Japanese.

Per German steamer *Feronia*, from Kobe:—Mr. Cooke in cabin; and 1 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Horai Maru*, from Kobe:—Captain James in cabin; and 25 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Taganoura Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—52 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Toyoshima Maru*, from Kobe:—17 Japanese.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Toyoshima Maru* for Kobe:—60 Japanese in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Tokio*, for Hongkong:—Mrs. H. Pagdon, Miss E. Prosper, Messrs. H. S. Greeley and M. Atchinson in cabin; and 77 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Governor Miyasaki, Mrs. Simms, Dr. Simmons, U.S.N., Messrs. M. Ginsburg, R. Kuli, S. Tsuji, N. Nakajima, J. Sabara, N. Yamada, K. Okakura, Hiodo, Takaye, Nagai, Tsuge, and Funatsu in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, for Oginohama:—Messrs. M. Watase and N. Uyeda in cabin. For Hakodate: Mr. and Mrs. S. Hirai, Messrs. M. Yamamoto and K. Fujinuma in cabin; and 70 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Kashgar*, for Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki:—Mr. and Mrs. Scribe, infant, and nurse, Rev. and Mrs. Jennings, infant, and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Wieler, Captain James, Rev. H. W. Lee, Mr. Dods and servant, Messrs. Day, Hindson, Marcus, Medwin, Tobler, Durafour, A. L. Robinson, and Chun Kum in cabin; and 1 Indian, 3 Chinese, and 18 Japanese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Volga*, from Hongkong:—4,816 packages.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$53,000.00.

Per British steamer *Kashgar*, for Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki:—Silk, for France, 55 bales; for London, 5 bales; Total, 60 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru*, Captain Walker, reports leaving Hakodate on the 14th February, at 6 a.m. with moderate E.N.E. winds and cloudy weather to Oginohama, where arrived on the 15th, at 5.45 a.m., left Oginohama on the 16th, at 1 a.m. with strong S.W. winds to Nosima; thence to port moderate N.E. winds. Arrived at Yokohama on the 17th February, at 10.50 a.m.

The American steamer *City of Tokio*, Captain J. Maury, reports leaving San Francisco on the 24th January, at 12.15 p.m. with variable winds and fine weather to Meridian; thence to Yokohama hard westerly gales, and high sea. Arrived at Yokohama on the 18th February, at 7.50 a.m. Time, 24 days and 1 hour.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

A fair business continued for a few days following our last report, but it gradually died away, and during the past week the demand has been trifling.

COTTON YARN.—The eagerness to buy at advancing rates has come to an end after a very large business being done, and the Market has relapsed into a state of quiet, with quotations more or less nominal. A fair demand continues for Bombay 20's.

GREY GOODS.—Shirtings have been neglected, but fair sales of T-Cloths have been made.

FANCIES.—Very few transactions have been reported except in Mousseline de Laine, for which trifling concessions in price have been made.

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 to 24, Common to Medium	\$26.00 to 28.50
Nos. 16 to 24, Good to Best	29.00 to 30.50
Bombay, No. 20, Good to Best	26.00 to 27.75
Nos. 28 to 32, Common to Medium	30.00 to 31.75
Nos. 28 to 32, Good to Best	31.50 to 33.50
Nos. 38 to 42	34.00 to 36.50

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ to 39 inches	\$1.70 to 2.15
Grey Shirtings—9 lb, 38½ to 45 inches	1.85 to 2.30
T. Cloth—7 lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.35 to 1.45
Indigo Shirting—12 yards, 44 inches	1.50 to 1.75
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.10 to 2.40
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.07 to 0.09
Turkey Reds—2 to 2½ lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20 to 1.45
Turkey Reds—2½ to 3 lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.50 to 2.00
Turkey Reds—3 lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70 to 1.85
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.65 to 0.70
Taffetae, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.75 to 2.05

WOOLLENS.

	PER PICUL.
Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	\$3.50 to 5.25
Figured Orleans, 20-31 yards, 31 inches	3.25 to 4.00
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches	0.18 to 0.28
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.14½ to 0.16
Mousseline de Laine—Itajime, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.18½ to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Yuzen, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.30 to 0.38½
Cloths—Pique, 34 to 50 inches	0.40 to 0.50
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.30 to 0.55
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 6 to 5 lb, per lb	0.35 to 0.40

IRON.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	\$2.50 to 2.85
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	2.80 to 2.90
Round and square up to ½ inch	2.80 to 2.90
Nailrod, assorted	2.35 to 2.60
Nailrod, small size	2.85 to 3.15

KEROSENE.

Another week has passed without further sales of Oil being reported. Holders remain firm at previous quotations, but dealers have not yet cleared their late purchases. Deliveries have been 14,000 cases. The *Carondelet* has arrived, increasing our Stocks to about 677,000 cases sold and unsold Oil.

	PER CASE.
Devos	\$1.81
Comet	1.78
Stella	1.72

SUGAR.

The dull condition of the Sugar trade continues, holders making no concession, and buyers holding off.

	PER PICUL.
White, No. 1	\$8.00 to 8.35
White, No. 2	6.75 to 7.00
White, No. 3	6.30 to 6.50
White, No. 4	5.80 to 6.00
White, No. 5	4.60 to 4.75
Brown Formosa	3.90 to 4.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Since our last issue of the 14th instant, we have seen a quiet Market in this staple. About 200 piculs of various descriptions have been taken into godowns, but of this quantity half has been returned, and the nett Settlements do not exceed 100 piculs for the week. The Market may be called easier at former quotations; for, although holders still present a strong front, yet the absence of business has its effect, and some dealers who a few days ago held their Stock off sale would now be inclined to name a price for their silk.

The business done has been almost entirely confined to *Filatures*, *Re-reels*, and *Kakadas*; *Hanks* not appearing in the list. A feature in the Market of late has been the revival of demand for account of the native manufacturers. Each steamer going south takes a greater or less quantity for use in the native looms at Kiyoto, and the Stock here is thus kept down.

The M.M. steamer *Menzaleh*, which left this port at daylight on the 16th instant, carried 287 bales; of which 18 bales were entered as going to London, and 269 bales for France. These shipments bring the total Export up to 27,093 bales, against 20,961 bales last year, and 13,566 at same date in 1882.

Hanks.—This class has been almost neglected during the week, a few piculs only having been bought and sent back again. Dealers, without actually reducing their prices, are decidedly more inclined to do business, and another week of abstention may give buyers the silk at their limits. Rejections of former purchases and some fresh arrivals have brought the Stock up to 1,350 piculs.

Filatures.—Some business has been transacted at full prices, but holders are very conservative, and will not listen to what they consider, unreasonable offers. Buyers resist as best they can, and apparently operate only for pressing requirements. Among the prices made we notice—*Utsunomiya*, \$635; *Shinshu*, Best, \$630; *Koshu*, Best, \$610; *Yecchiu*, \$605; *Koshu* Medium, \$585; *Kanazawa*, \$570; *Mino* Common, \$565.

Re-reels.—Not much passing in these; the good qualities with recognised chops are not offered, and the little business done has been in *Matsushiro*, \$590; *Foshu*, \$560; *Bushu*, \$525.

Kakada.—More business has been done in the Medium and lower grades at \$555; \$540, \$530, and \$500, according to quality. The higher classes are held at long prices, although holders are more inclined to be sellers than they were a week ago.

Oshu and *Coarsa Kinds*.—Nothing done for Export, but some purchases are reported for use in the interior.

QUOTATIONS.

	Nominal
Hanks—No. 14	\$520 to 530
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	510 to 520
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshiu)	500 to 510
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	480 to 490
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshiu)	465 to 475
Hanks—No. 3	455 to 465
Filatures—Extra	635 to 650
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1, 14/16 deniers	620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1½, 14/17 deniers	610 to 620
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	605 to 615
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	595 to 605
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	585 to 595
Re-reels—No. 1, 14/16 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 14/17 deniers	590 to 600
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	570 to 580
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	550 to 560
Kakadas—Extra	Nom. 605
Kakadas—No. 1	585 to 595
Kakadas—No. 2	550 to 560
Kakadas—No. 3	530 to 540
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	480 to 490
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	470 to 480
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	430 to 450
Sodai—No. 2½	Nom. 400 to 410

Export Tables Raw Silk to 21st Feb., 1884:—

	SEASON 1883-84.	1882-83.	1881-82.
	BALES.	BALES.	BALES.
France and Italy	16,685	10,933	6,946
America	7,774	6,944	4,032
England	2,534	3,034	2,538
Total	27,093	20,961	13,566

WASTE SILK.

Business in this article has been restricted by one or two causes. In the first place the Stock on hand is mostly inferior, and does not appear tempting to buyers; secondly, dealers are asking long prices, and are even reported to be speculating among themselves in certain classes. Recorded Settlements give only 50 piculs for the week, but to this amount should be added about 100 piculs *Noshi* and 80 piculs *Kibiso* reported settled by one buyer, which transactions do not seem to have appeared in the daily list. Arrivals have been rather more plentiful, and the Stock is somewhat larger. The French mail of the 16th instant took 52 bales, bringing the total Export of Waste and Cocoons up to 19,648 piculs, against 18,042 piculs last year, and 16,074 piculs in 1882.

Pierced Cocoons.—No fresh arrivals, and Market quite bare of Stock.

Noshi-ito.—Purchases amount in all to about 130 piculs, and prices are well maintained for anything showing fair quality. *Filatures* are held for an advance, \$157½ being asked for a few bales *Utsunomiya*. Some little has been done in *Oshu* under an old contract at \$145, but the chief business has been in *Foshu*, which is in demand at from \$90 to \$85, according to quality. A little fine *Hachoji* reported at \$120; in other sorts nothing doing at the moment.

Kibiso.—About 100 piculs have found buyers, ranging through all grades from *Tokosha* Filature down to *Shinshu Neri*. The native demand for "low curls" seems to be good; and dealers are reported to be offering foreigners a profit, if they will re-sell their recent purchases. Among the transactions of the week we observe *Zaguri Kibiso*, \$107½; *Oshu*, \$90; *Shinshu*, \$60; *Foshu*, \$35; *Hachoji*, \$25. A lot of "Tokosha Filature" *Neri* is reported done at \$15 uncleaned.

Mawata.—Still no sales; some few arrivals have raised the Stock on offer to 200 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

	None.
Pierced Cocoons—Medium to Fair	160
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	130
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	140 to 150
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	100
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	90
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Joshiu, Best	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Joshiu, Good	85 to 87½
Noshi-ito—Joshiu, Ordinary	125
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	115 to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95
Kibiso—Oshu, Good	85
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	65 to 70
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	50 to 55
Kibiso—Joshiu, Fair to Common	25 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	18 to 22
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	175 to 185
Mawata—Good to Best	

Export Table Waste Silk to 21st Feb., 1884:—

	SEASON 1883-1884.	1882-1883.	1881-1882.
	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
Waste Silk	17,483	14,929	13,667
Pierced Cocoons	2,165	3,113	3,007
	19,648	18,042	16,074

Exchange has remained much as last advised; rates, however, close firm, especially for Sterling. We quote London 4 m/s. Credits, 3/8; Documents, 3/8½; New York, 30 d/s, 89½; 60 d/s, 90½; Paris 6 m/s, fcs. 4.72. The *Kinsatsu* barometer would seem to have been extra-sensitive during the week, with daily fluctuations, closing at about 116 for \$100.

Estimated Silk Stock 21st Feb., 1884:—

	RAW.	PICULS.	WASTE.	PICULS.
Hanks	1,150		Pierced Cocoons	100
Filature & Re-reels	600		Noshi-ito	550
Kakada	400			
Taysam Kinds	100			
Total piculs	2,250		Total piculs	850

TEA.

During the interval that has elapsed since our last Market Report, we have to advise a fair amount of business transacted, the enquiry proceeding almost entirely from one firm. The total Settlements foot up at about 850 piculs, and they consist principally of Teas grading Good Common, Medium, and Good Medium, with some lines of Fine and Finest kinds. Market at the close is pretty firm, but we do not make any alteration in our quotations. Settlements here and at Kobe are 264,193 piculs since the commencement of the season at both ports, against 268,699 piculs at the same period in 1883. Receipts for the season are about 157,560 piculs, against 166,857 piculs in comparison with the preceding year. The steamship *Moray* sails to-day for New York, via Kobe and China ports, with a fair amount of Tea cargo. The next P.M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro* is circulated to take Tea at 3 cents per lb. gross to the United States and Canada, and at \$12 per ton for San Francisco, and is promised to be despatched on the 1st proximo.

QUOTATIONS.

	\$12 & under
Common	14 to 16
Good Common	18 & up/ds
Medium	Nominal.
Good Medium	

EXCHANGE.

Sterling quotations have gradually improved throughout the week, and at the close show signs of a slight rise. The amount of business transacted has, however, not been large, and the improvement has been chiefly caused by the advance in Bar Silver.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/7½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/8
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/8½
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/8½
On Paris—Bank sight	4.62
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.72
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 & 1/2 dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	88½
On New York—Private 10 days' sight	89
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	88½
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	89½

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